

November 2, 2011

To the Hearing Committee re the Merrimack River:

My name is Linda Rauter, and I live in Chichester, New Hampshire.

My family and I have lived in the greater Concord area for about 38 years. Concord with its beautiful Merrimack River has been the center of most of our activities over the years. Not too long ago before we arrived, the Merrimack was so polluted that one could not even safely swim in it. I understand that now, it is safe for swimming, boating and for wildlife. Because of the Bow Power Plant, I personally believe that only the area above the plant is safe for water activities. Sadly, extremely polluted discharge water from the plant continues to foul the river below it. Warmer water temperatures of the discharge also affect life in the river below the plant. In addition, it is my understanding that the 287 MILLION gallons of water withdrawn every day by the plant results in horrible deaths for whatever creatures may be in that water. A short distance upriver along the Forrest Society Conservation area, I have noted turtles, mink, muskrats, otter and water birds in addition to the fish that live in the river. It is extremely disturbing to imagine these creatures being sucked into the plant turbines. *or drowned on the intake screens.*

The right thing to do is to drastically limit the amount of water withdrawn by the river and to make

certain that whatever water is discharged is first cooled and cleaned.

I am also extremely concerned about the amount of mercury discharged by the plant. There is absolutely no question that mercury is a toxic substance, and it is falling indiscriminately into our soils and every water body. This is dangerous to all life and must be stopped.

Thank you,

*Linda Rauter*