



**Northeast
Utilities System**

AR-1264

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July 27, 2000

William J. Nadeau
Vice President - Fossil/Hydro Engineering
and Operations

D16163

Mr. Kendall Perkins
NH Department of Environmental Services
Water Division - Wastewater Engineering Bureau
P.O. Box 95
Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0095

Reference: Letter of Deficiency WD WWEB/C 00-00 (C10224), JR Bush to AG Palmer
dated June 22, 2000.

RECEIVED
JUL 31 2000
EPA WATER ENFORCEMENT

Dear Mr. Perkins:

Merrimack Station
NPDES Permit No. NH0001465

Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH) herein responds to the referenced Letter of Deficiency (LOD) received by PSNH following a March 24, 2000, DES compliance inspection of Merrimack Station. The deficiency cited was for not informing DES of the corrective actions that would be implemented to prevent reoccurrence of a pH noncompliance that was reported in the Station's December 1999 Discharge Monitoring Report. The pH violation involved a small storm drain that is installed beneath a railroad track switch to prevent it from freezing. The pH of the discharge was 8.8 SU.

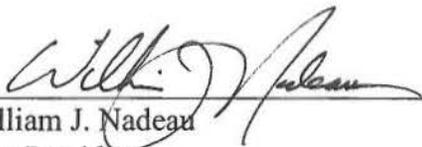
As described in the cover letter to the December 1999 DMR, PSNH believes the violation was caused by the use of calcium chloride for deicing. Merrimack Station began using calcium chloride under the presumption that it was less destructive to local vegetation. To prevent future elevated pH readings of the discharge effluent, we will return to using sodium chloride (rock salt) to de-ice the switch. Although a complete written explanation was omitted from the original DMR report, PSNH believes the corrective action was subsequently provided to DES verbally, including during the March inspection.

Mr. John R. Bush
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PSNH will continue to maintain its long standing commitment to compliance with the NPDES Program. Please contact Allan G. Palmer, Senior Engineer, at 634-2439 if you have any questions or would like to discuss the matter further.

Very truly yours,

PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



William J. Nadeau
Vice President

cc: Mr. John R. Bush, P.E., Administrator
George Berlandi, WWEB, NHDES
Gretchen Rule, DES Enforcement Coordinator
Joy Hilton, USEPA Compliance Section

Certified Mail