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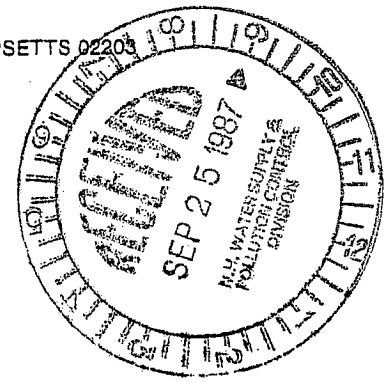
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION I

J. F. KENNEDY FEDERAL BUILDING, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02203



September 23, 1987

Mr. Warren Harvey, Vice President
Public Service Co. of New Hampshire (PSNH)
1000 Elm Street, P.O. Box 330
Manchester, NH 03105

Re: Request for suspension of the juvenile anadromous fish impingement monitoring requirement at PSNH Merrimack Station at Bow, NH (NPDES Permit NO. NH0001465).

Dear Mr. Harvey:

This letter is in response to your company's request for suspension of the biological monitoring program at Merrimack Station, in accordance with paragraph I.A.5.c. of NPDES permit No. NH0001465. EPA has reviewed the fish impingement data for 1985 and 1986, and has received comments on your request from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHFGD), and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, (USFWS).

The biomonitoring data submitted indicate that during normal flow conditions, there is minimal impingement of juvenile clupeid and salmonid fish at the facility. Therefore, EPA, upon the recommendation of USFWS, NHFGD and NHDES, hereby authorizes the suspension of impingement monitoring at Merrimack Station in Bow, NH, in accordance with paragraph I.A.5.c. of NPDES Permit No. NH0001465, with the following provisions:

1.) PSNH incorporate impingement monitoring at the Merrimack Station when flows from the Garvins Falls Station drop below 900 cfs during any period from July through October.

2.) PSNH report in writing to the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency any extraordinary impingement events at Merrimack Station. An extraordinary impingement event is defined as an event 50 or more fish at any one time, of any size or species, are either distressed or killed as a result of impingement.

3.) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, and the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department retain the right to require the resumption of impingement monitoring at any time during the life of NPDES Permit No. NH0001465.

If you have any questions, please contact Michael Marsh, an Environmental Engineer on my staff.

Sincerely yours,

for David A. Fierra, Director
Water Management Division

Enc.

cc: Wayne E. Nelson
Senior Biologist, PSNH

Daniel Kuzmeskus
Senior Biologist, PSNH

Lynn Woodard, NHDES

Russell Nylander, NHDES

William Ingham, NHF&GD

Gordon E. Beckett, USFWS

5. Biological Monitoring

a. Impingement Monitoring, Juvenile Anadromous Fish

(1) Clupeid Juveniles:
Juvenile Clupeid impingement monitoring at the Merrimack Generating Station shall be performed each year during the period from September 15 to October 31. All clupeid fish will be collected from all travelling screen washes performed during one continuous 48 hour period per week. Impingement monitoring will alternate weekly between Units I and II. A monitoring program report shall be submitted to the NHWSPCC and the Regional Administrator on an annual basis.

(2) Atlantic Salmon Smolts:
Emigrating Atlantic Salmon smolt impingement monitoring at the Merrimack Generating Station shall be performed each year during the period from April 15 to June 15. All Atlantic Salmon smolts will be collected from all travelling screen washes performed during one continuous 48 hour period per week. Impingement monitoring will alternate weekly between Units I and II. A monitoring program report shall be submitted to the NHWSPCC and the Regional Administrator on an annual basis.

b. Pump Entrainment Monitoring, American Shad Ichthyoplankton.

American Shad ichthyoplankton pump entrainment monitoring at the Merrimack Generating Station shall be reactivated for the period June 15 to July 15 when significant numbers of American Shad have been restored to the Hooksett Pond reach of the Merrimack River. Ichthyoplankton pump entrainment monitoring will be conducted at Unit I for 24 continuous hours, twice per week. Continuation of this program beyond the first year of reactivation will be the subject of negotiation between the NHWSPCC and Regional Administrator, and the permittee, after review of the monitoring program results.

The NHWSPCC, with the aid of its technical staff and on advice of the Fish and Game Department, shall determine when the reactivation of this program is required and will provide the permittee with ample advance notice of the necessity for the program's reactivation. A monitoring program report will be submitted to the NHWSPCC and the Reginal Administrator on an annual basis.

c. Revisions of the Biomonitoring Program

The permittee may submit proposed revisions of the existing biological monitoring program to the Regional Administrator and the NHWSPCC for their approval, as new information becomes available. Upon approval, the revised biological monitoring program shall be incorporated as part of this permit.