



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

REGION I

J.F. KENNEDY FEDERAL BUILDING, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02203-2211

October 27, 1993

**CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

**RECEIVED**

**NOV - 1 1993**

**R.G.C.**

Mr. R.G. Chevalier, Vice President  
Northeast Utilities  
P.O. Box 270  
Hartford, Connecticut 06141-0270

Re: NPDES Permit NH0001465 - PSNH Merrimack Station

Dear Mr. Chevalier:

On October 14, 1993, in a phone conversation to Dr. Nicholas Prodaný of my staff, Mr. Allan Palmer of your staff requested an increase in the average monthly flow rate for Outfall 003A. This outfall is for effluent from the Ash Settling Pond - during routine operation. The current permitted limit for the average monthly flow rate is 9.0 MGD. The request was for an approximate ten (10) percent increase or a flow rate of 10.0 MGD. This request has been made because the Station is currently using a low sulfur-content coal which has a higher fusion point than most of the coals previously used. This higher fusion point necessitates greater amounts of water for quenching and sluicing of the slag from the boilers.

With a general increase of precipitation during the Spring season, a definite potential exists that the permitted average monthly flow rate of 9.0 MGD will be exceeded, although the daily maximum value of 19.1 MGD will not be exceeded.

In compliance with permit requirements, this Station plans to separate the ash settling pond from the nearby wetlands in 1994. Therefore, EPA anticipates this projected minor exceedence to the permit limits will be corrected in 1994. Moreover, this increase in flow rate will not cause a significant change to the established average copper-concentration of 0.0053 mg/l during routine discharges from Outfall 003A. This average copper-concentration at the weir discharge is based on data taken over the past three years, i.e. from 12/12/90 to 5/21/93. For reference purposes, the effluent permit limitation for copper at Outfall 003A is 0.2 mg/l.

This potentially minor exceedence in flow will not cause a detectable change in State water quality standards.

EPA considers this change acceptable and will include it in the next permit modification or permit reissuance which ever occurs first.

Should you have any questions, please contact Dr. Prodaný of my staff at 617-565-3587.

Sincerely,

  
Edward K. McSweeney, Chief  
Wastewater Management Branch

cc: A.Palmer - PSNH  
J.Andrews - NHDES  
D.Starr - NHDES  
S.Silva - EPA, Compliance

