

## **File Memorandum**

**Date:** May 22, 2020

**From:** Cayleigh Eckhardt

**To:** Merrimack Station NPDES Permit File

**Re:** February 11, 2020, Teleconference Call between EPA Region 1 and Merrimack Station about Flue Gas Desulfurization Wastewater Authorization

On February 11, 2020, representatives from Granite Short Power (GSP) and EPA Region 1 participated in a teleconference to discuss the possibility of GSP withdrawing its request for authorization to discharge flue gas desulfurization (FGD) wastewater. Attendees from Region 1 included: Deb Szaro (Deputy Regional Administrator), Carl Dierker (Regional Counsel), Mark Stein, Cayleigh Eckhardt, Sean Dixon, Damien Houlihan, and Sharon DeMeo. Attendees from GSP included: Jim Andrews, Stephen Gidiere, Tom DeLawrence, Lynne Tillotson, and Alan Palmer.

The participants from GSP explained that the company may be interested in withdrawing the request to discharge FGD wastewater under its NPDES permit. The company is currently not authorized to discharge FGD wastewater, and has achieved zero discharge since 2012 through use of its advanced treatment technology in conjunction with its practices in reconditioning fly ash with FGD wastewater and hauling FGD wastewater to local POTWs. EPA acknowledged that these practices remain appropriate ways of achieving zero-discharge.

Additionally, EPA confirmed that GSP could, at any time in the future, request authorization of FGD wastewater and request a permit modification to include such authorization. The company indicated it may do so depending on the forthcoming national revisions to the Steam Electric Effluent Limitations Guidelines.

The participants discussed that this withdrawal could occur via a letter submitted by the company to EPA. EPA explained that, upon receipt of this request for withdrawal, any authorizations of FGD discharge would be removed from the Final Permit.

Finally, EPA explained that this withdrawal could significantly speed up permit development and result in earlier completion and issuance of the final permit. GSP expressed interest in an earlier issuance of the permit, and stated that they were also interested in learning how the Region's efforts to resolve other Steam Electric issues was proceeding, given the national implications. The company then requested that EPA confirm its resolution of any such national issues. Once in receipt of this confirmation, the company would plan to send a letter requesting withdrawal of its authorization to discharge FGD wastewater.