



**Public Service  
of New Hampshire**

John Min # 247

PSNH Energy Park  
780 North Commercial Street, Manchester, NH 03101

Public Service Company of New Hampshire  
P.O. Box 330  
Manchester, NH 03105-0330  
(603) 669-4000  
www.psnh.com

September 15, 2009

The Northeast Utilities System

**Prepared in Conjunction with Settlement Discussions**

**By Overnight Mail**

David Webster  
Office of Ecosystem Protection  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
One Congress Street, Suite 1100, Mail Code CMA  
Boston, MA 02114-2023

**Re: Public Service Company of New Hampshire  
Merrimack Station, Bow, New Hampshire  
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No. NH0001465**

Dear Mr. Webster:


Public Service Company of New Hampshire ("PSNH") is pleased to provide the enclosed report from Normandeau Associates Inc. entitled *Biological Performance of Intake Screen Alternatives to Reduce Annual Impingement Mortality and Entrainment at Merrimack Station*. As noted in our September 8, 2009 letter, PSNH is submitting this report – and shortly will submit the companion cooling water intake structure ("CWIS") technology evaluation report prepared by Enercon Services, Inc. – to meet the United States Environmental Protection Agency's ("EPA") request, following our December 2008 meeting to discuss PSNH's pending application for renewal of Merrimack Station's existing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") permit, for an enhanced conceptual CWIS technology evaluation for the Station.

Briefly, the enclosed report presents additional analysis undertaken by Normandeau for this enhanced CWIS technology evaluation to determine the expected biological performance of the three CWIS technologies for which EPA requested a more detailed assessment: (1) seasonal deployment of narrow slot cylindrical wedgewire screens in front of Merrimack Station's CWISs, (2) seasonal deployment of an aquatic filter barrier in front of the Station's existing CWISs, and (3) installation of fine mesh traveling screens to replace the Station's existing coarse mesh traveling screens. PSNH will submit Enercon's enhanced CWIS technology evaluation report by no later than September 30, 2009, and we look forward to scheduling a meeting with EPA to discuss both reports, PSNH's settlement proposal, and the substance of any proposed draft NPDES permit.

This correspondence is provided for settlement purposes. As in the past and of necessity, this correspondence respectfully reserves PSNH's rights to challenge any aspect of the draft NPDES permit that EPA ultimately issues for the Station. Nothing herein is intended to, or should be in any way construed, as waiving PSNH's rights with respect to any pending considerations.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

  
William H. Smagula, P.E.  
Director-PSNH Generation

cc: Linda T. Landis, Esq.  
Elise N. Zoli, Esq.  
Elizabeth F. Mason, Esq.