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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION I
5 POST OFFICE SQUARE - SUITE 100
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109-3012

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

February 4, 2010

William H. Smagula, P.E., Director-PSNH Generation
Public Service of New Hampshire
P.O. Box 330
Manchester, NH 03305-0330

Re: Information Request for NPDES Permit Re-issuance, NPDES Permit No:
NH0001465

Dear Mr. Smagula:

The New England Regional office of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or Agency) has considered Public Service of New Hampshire's (PSNH) letter dated January 29, 2010, that requested a 150 day extension to EPA's information request dated January 20, 2010. We welcome PSNH's intent to fully cooperate and appreciate your need to coordinate your reply with various consultants.

EPA firmly believes, however, that a full 150 days is not reasonably required to respond to each of the fifteen separate information requests contained in the Agency's letter. Indeed, it is EPA's conclusion that PSNH should reasonably be able to provide some of the information requested within the originally identified 30-day timeline. Specifically, EPA's recent information request letter, in many cases, asks PSNH simply to either present, clarify or reaffirm certain technical information and/or assumptions underlying certain aspects of PSNH's November 2007 response to an earlier EPA information request. EPA regards information requests No. 1 - 6, 11 and 12, to involve requests for such clarification, presentation or reaffirmation and that this information can reasonably be provided within the 30-day limit.

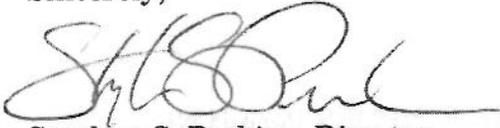
In addition, while EPA understands PSNH's stated desire to make the most up-to-date analysis available for consideration in the Merrimack Station permit development process, it is EPA's view that the thermal data requested by information request No. 15 was also previously requested by EPA's earlier information request letter and ought to be available now from PSNH's various consultants.

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EPA, therefore, is not at this time granting PSNH's request for a 150-day extension to respond to EPA's January 20, 2009 information request. If PSNH decides to reiterate its request for an extension for one or more of the fifteen information request items, we ask that PSNH differentiate among the items and provide further explanations of why the requested extensions are warranted for each particular item.

If you have any technical questions regarding this information request, please contact John Paul King at (617) 918-1295. If you have any legal questions, please direct them to Mark Stein at (617) 918-1077.

Sincerely,



Stephen S. Perkins, Director
Office of Ecosystem Protection

cc: Permit File;
Sergios Spanos, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services,
Water Division