

EXHIBIT V-A
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
INTER-DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATION

Admin #391-

JAN 14 1975

DATE January 23, 1974

AT (OFFICE)

FROM Terrence P. Frost and
Russell A. Nylander

SUBJECT REQUEST BY PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE TO DISCONTINUE OPERATION
OF SPRAY MODULES AT MERRIMACK STATION

TO William A. Healy, P.E.
Executive Director

SITUATION:

The Public Service Company of New Hampshire in a December 4, 1973 letter has requested a variance from the Commission that would permit discontinuance of spray module cooling and a return to completely open cycle condenser water discharge through March, 1974.

DISCUSSION:

A review of pertinent chronology may be helpful.

It is the Commission and Fish and Game Department staff understanding and both staffs recall essential agreement by the Public Service Company, that the spray modules and any other possible modifications of the cooling system (such as additional modules, step-down overflow structures, or blinding off the cooling pond system and recycling the cooling water from the ponds instead of using the Merrimack River for any but make-up water) would continue uninterrupted until the Public Service Company fully demonstrated the capability of meeting the conditions of the Commission permit.

The Company initially considered cooling towers at the Bow site and opted for the then relatively untried spray module cooling. The Commission and its staff went along with the Company with the idea that the experimentation with the modules and, perhaps, cooling pond modifications, had a high probability of success and that the experiment should be embarked upon and continued at least until success in meeting the permit was achieved or determined to be impractical or impossible using the combination modules and cooling ponds.

The Company believes it has reached this goal. The Fish and Game and Water Pollution Commission staffs do not agree and believe that the 1972 report of the Company's consultants, received here November 8, 1973, clearly demonstrates that the permit requirements are not being met consistently in the Merrimack River at Bow. *don't have*

The Public Service Company of New Hampshire has not yet consistently met the temperature conditions required by the Commission permit dated October 8, 1969.

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At the last Commission meeting the staff first learned of the Water Resources Board's proposed flow augmentation in the Merrimack River.

RECOMMENDATION:

It appears to the staff that the 1200-1300 C.F.S. increased discharge proposed to be delivered at Bow enables the staff, with the concurrence of the Fish and Game Dept. to recommend that the request of the Public Service Company of New Hampshire be granted.

Respectfully submitted,

Russell A. Nylander, P.E.
Associate Sanitary Engineer

and

Terrence P. Frost
Chief Aquatic Biologist

TPF/mad