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To Sharon Zaya/R1/USEPA/US@EPA  
cc jandrews@des.state.nh.us, Ericp  
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bcc

Subject Merrimack Station Supplemental Impingement Monitoring

Sharon, Thanks for coming to Merrimack Station this week, I hope you found the trip worthwhile. As a follow-up to your suggestion regarding impingement monitoring, I am sending this email to ask approval to replace the permit-based annual low flow program with the monitoring prescribed in the PIC. As we discussed, this modification is warranted given that the PIC is a much more comprehensive study and serves as a complete and thorough replacement program. Coordinating a single program will also eliminate confusion among PSNH and Normandeau field personnel responsible for collecting the samples. And as you pointed out, the permit does allow us to request changes to the biological program on an annual basis. This request has been accepted by the NH Fish & Game, US Fish & Wildlife Services, NH Department of Environmental Services and Eric Nelson, Region I biologist. PSNH requests your final approval of this change.

On a related matter, there have been occasional discussions over the years regarding the need for Merrimack Station to continue continuously (96 reading per day) monitoring dissolved oxygen at Stations N5 and S0. Data has been collected and submitted for roughly 25 years and has rarely, if ever, been used in any type of permit discussions. Compliance with water quality standards has never been questioned. The dissolved oxygen probes need regular attention and are often disrupted and destroyed by lightning strikes. It is a costly, time consuming program to operate and it is not producing data that is useful or relevant to Merrimack Station. We would like to discontinue this program and rely solely on the monthly grab sample that is required at Outfall 003. Please also advise if this monitoring may be discontinued.

Thank you Sharon, Allan.

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