



**Public Service
of New Hampshire**

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The Northeast Utilities System

April 14, 2003

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Ms. Joy J. Hilton
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region I
1 Congress Street, Suite 1100 (SEW)
Boston, MA 02114-2023

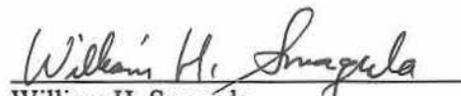
Reference: Noncompliance Notification (D19540), dated March 14, 2003, from J.M. MacDonald to J.J. Hilton.

Dear Ms. Hilton:

This letter is to provide a follow-up to the notification of the iron event that occurred at Schiller Station on March 10, 2003 (see Reference). Schiller Station personnel have researched the incident thoroughly and are making process modifications to protect against a reoccurrence. The primary effort has been to create a Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) to provide improved monitoring of future boiler fireside ash washes. An SOP has been prepared which now establishes a step-by-step checklist to ensure that piping and pumps are properly aligned and operated before, during and after all air heater and economizer washes (see Attachment). It also provides detailed monitoring of the two wastewater collection areas that are involved in the process, i.e., the APH basin and the #7 Pit, to ensure proper management and sufficient freeboard. An in-station team of key personnel has also been formed to evaluate additional improvements that may be made, and to perform an overall review of wastewater management.

Public Service of New Hampshire places a high premium on NPDES compliance, and while this event may not have resulted in an actual permit violation, Schiller Station personnel have assigned top priority to preventing a similar incident. This SOP represents the first line of defense, with the evaluation team to consider and implement additional safeguards as appropriate. If you have any questions on this matter, please contact Allan Palmer, PSNH Generation, at (603)634-2439.

Very truly yours,


William H. Smagula
Director

cc: Ms. Stephanie Larson, Environmental Inspector
N.H. Department of Environmental Services

