



palmeag@NU.COM  
05/01/2007 12:57 PM

To Joy Hilton/R1/USEPA/US@EPA, slarson@des.state.nh.us  
cc TCroteau@des.state.nh.us  
bcc  
Subject Notification

Does this cover the bases sufficiently for you folks?

(See attached file: U5 Overflow Noncompliance.doc)

Thanks, Allan.

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U5 Overflow Noncompliance.doc

May 1, 2007

D25942

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

Reference: NPDES Permit No. NH0001473, Schiller Station, Public Service Company of New Hampshire, issued September 11, 1990; modified May 31, 1991; modified January 24, 1995.

Dear Ms. Hilton:

Schiller Station  
5-Day Noncompliance Notification

In compliance with Part II, Section D.1.e., of the referenced NPDES Permit, Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH) submits this noncompliance notification for Schiller Station located in Portsmouth, NH. On Thursday, April 26, 2007, Allan Palmer of PSNH left a voicemail for Stephanie Larson of the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) to inform her that a noncompliance may have occurred. On Friday, April 27, 2007, Allan Palmer spoke with both Tom Croteau of DES and you to confirm that a nonpermitted discharge had occurred. This letter is to provide greater detail of the event.

On the night of April 25, 2007, at 19:45, an employee noticed a small stream of water flowing from the direction of the Unit 5 boiler house across the site pavement. Upon investigation, it was determined that a sump in the boiler room had overflowed during start-up and was causing water to backflow and exit via a yard drain. Absorbents were immediately placed at the curbing cutouts to contain the water on the site pavement and modifications were made to boiler operations to reduce the amount of flow going into the sump. By 20:30, the overflow had stopped. It is estimated that the total amount of boiler condensate and blowdown water that was released on to the pavement was 50 to 100 gallons. While it appeared that the water was completely contained, it is possible that a small amount leaked on to the river bank. If water did reach the Piscataqua River, it is estimated that the total volume was less than 5 gallons. There was no evidence of a sheen and a sample collected of the pooled water yielded a pH concentration of 10.7 SU, consistent with boiler condensate.

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The sump that overflowed and backflowed to the yard drain is normally equipped with two pumps that automatically transfer the water to the treatment basin. This event occurred because one of the pumps had been taken out of service for maintenance and the remaining pump could not control the level. To prevent a recurrence, the sump will be equipped with an additional flashing and audible alarm to provide an advance warning that the water level is rising. Evaluations will also be performed of the pumping requirements and of the boiler start-up procedures to minimize water flow to the sump. Additional modifications will be made as necessary to provide a system fully capable of managing the amount of wastewater generation.

If you have any questions regarding this notification, please contact Allan Palmer, PSNH Generation, at (603)634-2439.

Very truly yours,

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

cc: Ms. Stephanie Larson  
N.H. Department of Environmental Services  
Water Division  
Wastewater Engineering Bureau  
Permits and Compliance Section  
29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95  
Concord, NH 03302-0095