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March 24, 2006

CERTIFICATE OF THE SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
ON THE
NOTICE OF PROJECT CHANGE

PROJECT NAME : Brayton Point Generating Station
Air Pollution Control Project
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Somerset
PROJECT WATERSHED : Mount Hope Bay
EOEA NUMBER : 13022
PROJECT PROPONENT : Dominion Energy Brayton Point LLC
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : February 22, 2006

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (G. L. c. 30, ss. 61-62H) and Section 11.10 of the MEPA regulations (301 CMR 11.00), I have reviewed the Notice of Project Change (NPC) submitted on this project and hereby determine that it **does not require** further MEPA review.

Project Description

As described in the NPC, the project change consists of disclosure of wetlands impacts associated with the installation of 1.8 miles of water main. The water main will transfer treated gray water from the Somerset publicly owned treatment works (POTW) to the station to meet increased water demand. Since the filing of the ENF, wetlands delineation and engineering studies were completed and indicate that the project will impact, on a temporary basis, 38,144 square feet (sf) of bordering vegetated wetlands (BVW). In addition, the proponent has filed an Emission Control Plan (ECP) Amendment with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for approval to install Mercury (Hg) emission control equipment and additional Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) reduction equipment. Spray Dryer Absorber (SDA) technology (to reduce SO₂ emissions) will be installed on Units 1 and 2 and Powder Activated Carbon (PAC) injection systems (to reduce Hg emissions) will be installed on Units 1, 2 and 3.

The original project consists of an air pollution control program to comply with 310 CMR 7.29 Emissions Standards for Power Plants. These regulations were promulgated on May

11, 2001 to make significant reductions in Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x), SO₂, Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) and H_g emissions from the oldest power plants operating in the state and to bring these facilities in line with emission standards for newer plants. The purpose of the regulations is to decrease the environmental and health impacts of power generation by reducing the pollutants that contribute to acid rain, regional haze, mercury emissions and global climate change. The project will reduce actual NO_x emissions by approximately 60%, from 12,976 tons per year (tpy) to 5,372 tpy, SO₂ emissions by approximately 50%, from 42,521 tpy to 23,988 tpy, Carbon Monoxide (CO) emissions by 4 tpy, and Sulfuric Acid Mist (H₂SO₄) by 15 tpy.¹ The project change will reduce Hg emissions by 88 to 127 pounds per year.

The Brayton Point Station site consists of approximately 250 acres of land on Brayton Point, a peninsula in Somerset. The site is bordered by the Lee River to the west, the Taunton River to the east, a residential neighborhood and U.S. 195 to the north, and Mount Hope Bay to the south. This existing industrial facility, in operation since the 1960's, generates approximately 1,600 megawatts (MW) of power. It consists of three boilers fired primarily by coal and one boiler fired by fuel oil and natural gas (Units 1, 2, 3 and 4 respectively), and associated air pollution control systems, including four emission stacks.

Permits and Jurisdiction

The project is subject to environmental review pursuant to Section 11.03 (8)(b)(2) because it requires a state permit and consists of a modification of an existing major stationary source resulting in a "significant net increase" in actual emissions of greater than 15 tpy of particulate matter (PM) as PM₁₀. In this case, the increase in PM₁₀ is not a result of the combustion process but, rather, a byproduct of the air pollution control equipment that will be installed to achieve significant reductions in NO_x and SO₂. The original project required a Major Comprehensive Air Plan Approval from DEP and review of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The project change requires a 401 Water Quality Certificate and a 7.02 Limited Plan Approval from DEP. Also, it requires an Order of Conditions from the Somerset Conservation Commission (issued on January 23, 2006).

The proponent is not seeking financial assistance from the Commonwealth. Therefore, MEPA jurisdiction applies to those aspects of the project within the subject matter of required permits with the potential to cause Damage to the Environment. In this case, MEPA jurisdiction extends to air quality, water quality and wetlands.

Environmental impacts associated with the project change include temporary alteration of 38,144 sf of BVW, a 610,000 gallons per day (gpd) increase in water demand, and generation of 18 to 33 additional truck trips for delivery of lime, SDA waste and PAC. The proponent has committed to a number of measures to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts. The water main is routed primarily through previously disturbed areas and the Order of Conditions includes special conditions to minimize impacts to wetlands during and after construction. These include siltation and erosion control measures and double ditching of resource areas to support reseeded. In addition, treated gray water will be re-used to meet increased water demand.

¹ These projections are based on past actual emissions for all units from the 2000-2001 baseline.

Based on a review of the information provided in the NPC and consultation with relevant public agencies, I find that the potential impacts of this project do not warrant the preparation of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Therefore, no further MEPA review is required.

March 24, 2006

Date



Stephen R. Pritchard

Comments Received:

3/14/06	Department of Environmental Protection Southeast Regional Office (DEP SERO)
3/14/06	Department of Fish and Game (DFG)/Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF)
3/8/06	Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC)

SRP/CDB/cdb