



Killing both marsh and fish

Fact Sheet #2

NPDES June, 1993 Draft Permit No. NJ0005622

Timeline Update:

1990, June 1 - PSE&G files Permit Renewal Application

1990, Oct. 3 - NJDEPE issues first draft permit requiring PSE&G to retrofit with closed cycle cooling

1991, January - Public Comment period on draft permit closes

1991, January through 1992 November - Numerous closed door meetings and discussions between PSE&G and NJDEPE

1992, November or December - Draft submission of supplement to Permit Renewal Application by PSE&G to DEPE

1993, March 3 - PSE&G submits supp. to Application for Permit Renewal to DEPE

1993, June 24 - DEPE issues second draft permit allowing PSE&G to pursue mitigation instead of installing cooling towers

1993, July 22 - Petition filed by Delaware Riverkeeper Network, et al. with USEPA

1993, August 12 - DEPE Public Hearing Pennsville, NJ

1993, September 9 - DEPE Public Hearing Vineland, NJ

1993, September 16 - DEPE Phase I public comment period closes

1993, September 17 - DEPE Phase II public comment period opens

1993, October 28 - DEPE's "non-adversarial" roundtable discussion Trenton, NJ

1993, November 4 - DEPE Phase II public comment period closes

New Draft Permit Conditions

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Energy (DEPE) issued the second draft permit for the Salem Nuclear Power Plant to Public Service Electric & Gas (PSE&G) on June 24, 1993. Accepting PSE&G's claims of exorbitant cost and lack of significant negative impact (from PSE&G's comments to the 1990 permit), DEPE overturned their decision of 3 years ago (in which they required PSE&G to install a closed cycle cooling system). Instead the draft permit allows PSE&G to continue to operate the plant without cooling towers and grants its request that it be allowed to fulfill the requirements of the Clean Water Act by 1) conducting a salt marsh restoration experiment in Cape May and Cumberland Counties and 2) pursuing other mitigation measures and studies.

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1. Salt Marsh Restoration Plan:

- open up 4000 acres of diked salt hay and crop farms to the tides
- convert additional 4000 acres to naturally occurring plants
- restore 2000 acres of wetlands and/or preserve 6000 acres of upland buffer
- deed restrict conserved parcels

2. Other Elements of the Mitigation Package:

- modify the fish bucket design
- limit the cooling water intake flow to an average 3,024 billion gallons per day (present operating level)
- conduct a sound deterrent study on fish
- remove some fish migration barriers in tributaries
- conduct baywide biological monitoring program

Some Questions Raised Concerning the Salt Marsh Restoration Plan

1. Re: Environmental Impact

- What are the specifics of the salt hay marsh "restoration"?
- How and where will the salt marsh experiment be conducted?
- What will happen to the marshes after the life of the Salem Nuclear Plant?
- How much eroded sediment will be washed into the river with the tidal action?
- What will be the quality of sediment and run-off from the unbridled impoundments
- How much DDT and other pollutants will be released into the river and what will their impacts be?
- What will the specific flooding effects, short and long term, be on area roads, farms, and homes from the newly opened dikes?
- Will PSE&G commit to long-term maintenance of effected upland areas? For how long?
- With removal of existing dikes, will sea level rise increase the landward intrusion of salt water?
- PSE&G is supposed to re-plant "naturally occurring" plants. How many of these will be indigenous species? What guidelines will insure that invasive or undesirable plants are not used?
- How will deed restrictions legally protect the properties which PSE&G plans to purchase for the experiment?
- How will the deed-restricted properties be taxed?

2. Re: The Plan's Effectiveness

- How and when will we know if the plan is working?
- How long will it be before the restoration is expected to be productive?
- How will the results of the plan be quantified?
- What criteria will be used to measure productivity?
- How will habitat enhancement mitigate fish killed by Salem's intakes?
- What will prevent fish produced by the plan from being killed by the intakes?

Riverkeeper Fact Sheets are updated as new information becomes available. If you have information on this matter , please call the Delaware Riverkeeper Network at 215 369-1188.