

Delaware Riverkeeper Network ~ NJ Sierra Club Clean Water Action

For Immediate Release

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State Issues Draft Permit for Salem Nuclear Plant: Fish Kills Allowed to Continue Unchecked Charge Environmentalists

Trenton, N.J. – June 30, 2015, complying with a settlement agreement between the state of New Jersey and the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, New Jersey Sierra Club and Clean Water Action, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) issued a draft discharge permit to PSE&G's Salem Nuclear Generating Station.

“While the draft permit fails to fulfill the State’s obligation to ensure the fish kills at Salem are minimized, at least now we will have a permit that we can challenge in the courts,” said **Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper**. “For the past forty plus years Salem has been the largest predator in the Delaware Estuary, killing over 3 billion fish indiscriminately, with this permit NJDEP is once again giving its stamp of approval on this needless slaughter of fish,” van Rossum added.

In October 2013, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, New Jersey Sierra Club and Clean Water Action initiated their legal action requesting an order demanding that the NJDEP take action on PSE&G's permit renewal application for the Salem Nuclear Generating Station located in Lower Alloways Creek Township, New Jersey. PSE&G submitted its renewal application for a New Jersey Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) permit in February 2006, but NJDEP never made a determination on the application either by issuing a draft permit for public notice and comment, or by denying the permit, until now, and that is because it was forced to by a legal settlement entered into with the three environmental groups.

Among other things, the draft permit issued allows the facility to draw a monthly average of 3.024 billion gallons per day of water for a once through cooling system and grants the facility a variance from thermal limits.

"With this draft permit, Governor Christie has demonstrated why he shouldn't be President of the United States -- he lies too often even for a politician, and while what comes out of his mouth is often entertaining you never know if it is actually what he believes although you can be certain it is primarily to promote himself regardless of the impacts on others," said **David Pringle, Clean Water Action**. (see below **)

"This plant robs the river of clean water and kills more than three billion fish a year. The DEP has no justifiable reason to allow that pollution and that slaughter to continue. The DEP cares more about protecting PSEG than they do about protecting the Delaware River or clean water. The plant has been licensed for another twenty years and therefore should be required to have cooling towers," said **Jeff Tittel, Director of the New Jersey Sierra Club**.

Added **Delaware Riverkeeper Maya van Rossum**, "in addition to the permit terms that allow Salem to continue with its outdated, once through cooling technology, the DEP has given the public only 60 days to comment and one set of hearings on a single day at a single location during the height of vacation season. It took DEP over 9 years and to be forced by a lawsuit to issue this draft permit and now all they offer the public is 60 days to fully digest and comment upon this 151 page document and to offer testimony at one hearing scheduled during the height of vacation season? DEP is clearly trying to hamper the public's ability to create a fully informed record on this draft permit. But we will do what we have to to defend our River, our fish populations, and all the communities that depend upon them and appreciate them."

"There is a direct environmental impact from these dinosauric plants. Right now we're paying the cost for the destruction of the river and fisheries. These costs should be paid by PSEG and DEP should enforce the law that requires them to do so. The superheated water dumped in the river adds to thermal pollution, robs the river of oxygen and leads to algal blooms. There are also algacides, fungicides, corrosives and other chemicals being dumped in the water. We will go back to court if necessary to protect the river," added **Sierra Club's Tittel**.

**Christie's for Governor 2009 press release is still available at <http://tinyurl.com/nkbvx63> 'Christie's key environmental planks stand in stark contrast to Jon Corzine's failed record and broken promises over the last four years:* enacting policies in the first 100 days to stop the fish slaughter resulting from flawed cooling systems at the Salem and Oyster Creek nuclear plants.'

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