

January 25, 2010

Kevin Kispert
Project Manager, Division of Environmental Permits
NYSDEC
SUNY @ Stony Brook
50 Circle Road
Stony Brook, NY 11790-3409

RE: SDPES permits for the E.F. Barrett Power Plant

Dear Mr. Kispert,

As I understand, the Department of Environmental Conservation is currently accepting public comments on the renewal of SPDES permits for the E.F. Barrett Power Plant. I am writing to thank the DEC for recommending that National Grid upgrade the Barrett Power Plant to a closed loop cooling system. This is the most protective measure, which guarantees minimal damages to the marine life in our coastal waters. DEC should swiftly implement and finalize the draft permit.

The E.F. Barrett facility in Island Park, along with three other power plants on Long Island also owned by National Grid, currently kill more than 10 billion fish and other aquatic organisms, including eggs and larvae, each year. The Barrett plant is responsible for killing over a billion fish, fish eggs and larvae a year and entrains more winter flounder than any other steam electric facility. Almost 40% of the estimated annual entrainment of winter flounder by power plants in NY occurs at Barrett. This is severely hurting the Western Bays, a sub-region of the South Shore Estuary Reserve.

The plants' obsolete cooling systems draw in fish and other aquatic life that either become trapped on intake screens or pass through the screens into the plant. In this millennium there are better ways to cool power plants. There are straightforward, proven technologies that can reduce and even eliminate the damage that these power plants inflict on our coastal waters.

The unnecessary killing of marine life at the Barrett facility can stop. I support the solution recommended by DEC, which calls for National Grid to use "best technology available"—closed cycle cooling. Closed cycle cooling still draws in water to cool the power plant, but instead of discharging the water the water is cooled and re-used in the plant. According to the draft permit for the Barrett plant, "Department staff expect this technology to achieve a 98% reduction in

impingement mortality and a 95% reduction in entrainment. A closed cycle cooling would also eliminate the facility's thermal pollution.”

National Grid's five power plants can withdraw nearly 2 billion gallons of cooling water each day directly from Long Island coastal waters. The next generations of aquatic life needed to replenish decimated ecosystems are continually destroyed by National Grid's power plants, depleting fish stocks, which are an important source of food for other marine species. The South Shore Estuary Reserve supports approximately 3,000 water-dependent and water enhanced businesses, employing nearly 30,000 people.

Over the last several years greater restrictions have been placed on Long Island's recreational and commercial fishing communities. Power plants must also be carefully regulated with respect to the impact on fish populations and aquatic ecosystems. Upgrading these plants is good for our environment, our economy, and our way of life on Long Island. I commend DEC in their recommendation to require closed cycle cooling at the EF Barrett plant and I urge DEC to move swiftly to finalize the permit.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,