From: ecchimento <ecchimento@comcast.net>
To: Mansueti, Lawrence <Lawrence.Mansueti@hq.doe.gov>
Sent: Fri Nov 18 10:58:43 2005
Subject: Letter (9/12/05) for filing in DOE DCPSC Docket #EO-05-01

Mr. Mansueti,
Would you please file for consideration the attached letter, originally sent to FERC, in DOE’s Docket No. EO-05-01 regarding the DCPSC complaint?
Thank you.
Elizabeth Chimento and Poul Hertel
September 12, 2005

Joseph T. Kelliher, Chairman
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

Re: District of Columbia Public Service Commission Emergency Petition and Complaint
Docket No. EL05-145-000

Dear Chairman Kelliher:

As initiators of the Alexandria Mirant Power Plant emissions investigation, we supply the following information to the Commission, believing this history may be relevant to the current “emergency” request before the Commission.

We began our research in May 2001, prompted by observing grey residue coating our windowsills and cars. Launching a scientific analysis, incorporating PM2.5 particle research by Drs. Jonathan Levy, Harvard School of Public Health and C. Arden Pope, Brigham Young University, we also secured laboratory tests of the residue, conducted by Pennsylvania State University and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

The test results confirmed that over 50% of the residue emanated from the plant. In August 2003, after compiling our research, we presented it to the City of Alexandria, entitled “Mirant Power Plant Emissions and Health Effects.”

Within our study, we emphasized that this plant’s short stacks were of particular concern to us.

We then engaged Sullivan Environmental Consulting, in March 2004, to execute a preliminary downwash analysis, using Marina Towers, a high-rise condominium just north and adjacent to the plant, as a potential downwash site. The results confirmed that downwash was occurring at the condominium.

Based on the results of these preliminary findings, the VADEQ mandated (Order by Consent, 9/23/04) that Mirant undertake a comprehensive downwash study which was completed in August 2005. The results confirmed that multiple exceedences of NAAQS emission levels of SO2, NO2, PM10 and PM2.5 have been occurring at the plant, possibly for over 30 years, affecting over 4000 residents.

Mirant has been well aware of each stage of our investigative process. When downwash was first identified in March 2004, why didn’t both Mirant and PJM immediately make contingency plans to fill the 482 megawatt gap left by this antiquated plant blowing out harmful toxic pollutants all over our neighborhood?

For far too long the Alexandria community has been subjected to this plant’s unacceptably high pollution levels. We do not yet know the cumulative damage that may have been done to our health but to re-open the plant, under these circumstances, would be to knowingly jeopardize our health and welfare again. We urge you, therefore, to reject this emergency petition.

Very truly yours,

Elizabeth Chimento and Poul Hertel
Alexandria Citizen Alexandria Citizen

Cc: Senator John Warner
    Rep. James Moran
    Alexandria Mayor William B. Euille and City Council Members
    Alexandria City Manager James Hartmann
    Alexandria City Attorney Ignacio Pessoa