

EX 7

ORIGINAL	
N.H.P.U.C. Case No.	DE 11-250
Exhibit No.	#7
Witness	Panel
DO NOT REMOVE FROM FILE	

**Public Service Company of New
Hampshire**
Docket No. DE 11-250

Data Request STAFF-01

Dated: 12/30/2011
Q-STAFF-002
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Witness: William H. Smagula, Robert A. Baumann
Request from: New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission Staff

Question:
Please explain the status of all necessary permits and approvals required to operate any part of the wastewater treatment system that is now being used and/or to be used in conjunction with the Scrubber. If any necessary permits and approvals have not been obtained and the wastewater treatment system is not operating as designed, does that fact affect the operation of the emissions reductions capability of the scrubber? Please explain.

Response:
PSNH has all permits necessary to place the Clean Air Project in service and reduce emissions as mandated by the mercury reduction law. As noted in response to Q-STAFF-001, EPA chose to address the new scrubber effluent discharge as part of the overall Merrimack Station NPDES permitting process, rather than entertaining a more timely permit modification or any other type of interim discharge authorization. Because finalization of the NPDES permit is expected to be a lengthy process, PSNH is presently precluded from discharging treated scrubber wastewater to an on-site treatment pond and ultimately to the Merrimack River. The primary wastewater treatment system is currently operating as designed, allowing treated wastewater to be brought to permitted waste treatment facilities for disposal. To process wastewater effluent going forward, additional treatment equipment is being installed to reduce the quantity of any wastewater significantly resulting in additional disposal options including one that does not need to discharge.