

January 6, 2006

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The Honorable Samuel W. Bodman
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

**Re: District of Columbia Public Service Commission;
Docket No. EO-05-01.**

Dear Secretary Bodman:

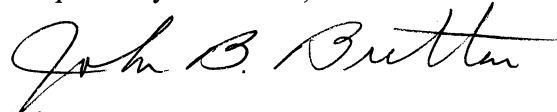
The City of Alexandria supports and joins in the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's ("DEQ") demand that the Department of Energy ("DOE") order a postponement of the Potomac Electric Power Company's ("PEPCO") planned outages of the 230 kV transmission lines serving the Potomac River Substation. The planned outages will result in the operation of the Mirant Potomac River Generating Station ("PRGS") prior to any review or implementation of the pollution control installation schedule required by the DOE's Order of December 20, 2005. This will ensure violations of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards ("NAAQS") at the excessive levels that existed prior to the closure of the plant in August 2005. As set out in the DEQ's January 5, 2006 letter, this is a flagrant violation of DOE's Order which prohibits the PRGS from causing or significantly contributing to any exceedance of the NAAQS.

In addition to the reasons set out in DEQ's letter, Alexandria reiterates the concerns it raised in its letter of December 22, 2005 (see attached). The DOE has not responded to Alexandria's request for a full and open public scrutiny and comment process on Mirant's proposed plan, a request supported by Congressman James Moran in his letter to you of December 30, 2005. Mirant has failed to provide any support that its use of the TRONA system to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions will not result in the increase of emissions of other pollutants such as small particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), a substantial health risk to nearby residents, and its proposed plan continues the company's conscious effort to dismiss the NAAQS and minimize and belittle the recognized health risks of the PRGS's continued operation. The DOE's, PEPCO's and Mirant's actions in this matter completely vitiate any semblance of protection of the public health and welfare that appears in the Order. These actions exacerbate the already heavy burden borne by the residents of Alexandria in this "emergency."

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Alexandria and DEQ take seriously their roles in the protection of their citizenry. The operation of the plant due to the PEPCO planned outages is a clear and blatant violation of federal and state law. Without waiving its right to challenge the DOE's Order, Alexandria demands that the DOE proceed consistent with such Order. Furthermore, Alexandria will pursue all available legal remedies to hold all pertinent parties accountable for violations of law and the consequent harm and injury to the residents of Alexandria.

Respectfully submitted,



John B. Britton

For SCHNADER HARRISON SEGAL & LEWIS LLP

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City of Alexandria

JBB/maj

cc: Robert G. Burnley
Donald S. Welsh
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