

January 8, 2004

Kenneth Smith, Chairman
Portsmouth Planning Board
One Junkins Avenue
575 Portsmouth Avenue
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Dear Mr. Smith:

In response to the determination by the Portsmouth Planning Board that the proposed PSNH conversion of Unit 5 at Schiller Station is a project with potential regional impacts beyond Portsmouth's municipal boundaries, the Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) convened a meeting of its Projects of Regional Impact Committee (RIC). As you may be aware, this meeting was held in the RPC offices on January 7th and was attended by RPC commissioners, staff, and several representatives of the project design team. (A copy of the attendance roster has been provided.

Larry Smith (East Kingston), served as Chairman of the committee, and began the meeting by summarizing the statutory authority for the committee's review of this project for those in attendance. Mr. Despina, Facilities Manager of Schiller Station gave those in attendance a brief overview of the project which was augmented by other experts from PSNH's project design team. The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing the various issues the RIC investigates when convened. As outlined in NHRSA ' 36:55, at a minimum the project is reviewed by the RIC because of factors such as, but not limited to, the following:

- I. Relative size or number of dwelling units as compared with existing stock;
- II. Proximity to the borders of a neighboring community;
- III. Transportation networks;
- IV. Anticipated emissions such as light, noise, smoke, odors or particles;
- V. Proximity to aquifers or surface waters which transcend municipal boundaries;
- VI. Shared facilities such as schools and solid waste disposal facilities.

The RIC discussed each of these factors with respect to the subject development proposal and found the following areas of concern:

The Committee found that item I was not applicable to this development. With respect to issue II the Committee had no comment.

Issue area III, transportation generated the greatest discussion, with the Committee being particularly

concerned about the introduction of 70 tractor trailer vehicles onto the Spaulding Turnpike and Gosling Road. The Consensus of the Committee was that PSNH should strongly consider utilizing Shattuck Way, understanding that PSNH would assume the cost for completing the as yet un-constructed portion of this road. In light of NHDOT plans to improve Exit 4 the Committee felt strongly that this alternative best handles the additional traffic necessitated by the proposed delivery of fuel. In addition the committee felt strongly that if Shattuck Way was not used PSNH should seriously consider mandatory truck routing and delivery time restrictions to minimize detrimental impacts on existing traffic patterns.

With respect to Item IV, the committee had two areas of concern. First, the Committee asked for assurances from PSNH that the mobile emissions created by fuel delivery vehicles would not result in measurably significant negative findings for the Seacoast Metropolitan Planning Organizations traffic model for air quality conformity. Second, the Committee heard evidence that plant noise was an issue for residents of Eliot, Maine, across the river. Plant representative made it clear that the proposed conversion would not improve the situation and the Committee felt PSNH should do what it could to mitigate plant generated noise.

With respect to item V, water resources, the project engineer indicated the location of wetland impacts. The representative from Portsmouth indicated that municipal water service would not be available to this site without excessive cost.

With respect to item V and VI, the committee found no impacts from this proposal.

I have attached copies of two letters received by the Committee at the close of the meeting that were not a part of the general discussion, they are offered for your review but be mindful that they do not represent a the consensus of the committee. Thank you for allowing the RIC to review and offer comment upon this development proposal. If you have any questions regarding the comments offered above please do not hesitate to contact me or Glenn Greenwood at the above telephone number.

Sincerely,

**Lawrence Smith, Chairman
Projects of Regional Impact Committee**

cc: RPC Commissioners