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NATIONAL GRID TOLD TO STOP KILLING FISH

State Permit for Pt. Jefferson Power Plant Awaits Public Comment

Farmingdale, NY--On July 22 the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) released a draft permit that would require National Grid's Port Jefferson Power Station to reduce the number of fish the power plant kills annually. Currently the plant's antiquated cooling system, which can withdraw up to 300 million gallons of water each day from Port Jefferson Harbor, kills more than one billion fish, fish eggs or larvae each year, along with other marine life. In addition, on July 29th, the DEC will officially release the draft permit for National Grid's Glenwood Power Station.

In conjunction with the release of the draft permit, Citizens Campaign for the Environment (CCE) and the Network for New Energy Choices (NNEC) released a white paper, "**Power Plants Kill Fish,**" detailing the effects of National Grid's Long Island power plants on coastal fish (available online at www.citizenscampaign.org).

"It is well known that power plants pollute the air and contribute to climate change," said Adrienne Esposito, executive director of CCE. "However, less understood is that these same plants – including the Port Jefferson Power Station – play a significant role in killing and injuring billions of local fish and disturbing our marine ecosystems. The good news is that there are straightforward, proven technologies that can reduce and even eliminate the damage that these power plants inflict on our coastal waters."

The Port Jefferson facility is one of five power plants on Long Island owned by National Grid, which together kill more than 10 billion fish each year. The plants' obsolete cooling systems draw in fish and other aquatic life that become trapped on intake screens or pass through the screens into the plant, depending on their size. The five plants' cooling

systems can withdraw nearly 2 billion gallons of water each day directly from Long Island coastal waters.

“The New York State DEC should ensure that National Grid takes responsibility and minimizes fish kills by retrofitting their plants with the best technology available for cooling water intake, specifically closed-cycle cooling,” said Kyle Rabin, director of NNEC.

Closed-cycle cooling – the industry standard for new power plants – reduces water intake by over 95 percent, thereby reducing the amount of marine life destroyed by a similar percentage.

CCE and NNEC are evaluating the DEC’s recommendations for the Port Jefferson plant and plan to file written comments on the draft permit. However, both groups expressed disappointment that the permit draft does not recommend closed-cycle cooling.

“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,” Rabin added.

“Protection of our estuaries and the resources they provide is just one more reason why Long Island should be advancing renewable energy infrastructure,” stated Esposito.

Under the federal Clean Water Act and New York State regulations, National Grid will be required to comply with the DEC’s final permit, which will be released after a public comment period, ending **August 21**. The recommendations, found in DEC’s draft State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit can be read [here](http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6061.html) (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6061.html>). The comment period for the permit for Glenwood Power Station is August 28, 2009 and the SPDES permit can also be found at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6061.html>

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