

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS REGARDING THE MIRANT POWER PLANT

Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission Resolution

June 21, 2004

Approved 9-0

WHEREAS, the Mirant Power Plant was constructed in 1949 and has not undergone recent significant upgrades to improve air quality; and,

WHEREAS, the Mirant Power Plant is land use incompatible with surrounding residential neighborhoods and sensitive environmental receptors; and,

WHEREAS, a study commissioned by the City of Alexandria and prepared by Dr. Jonathan Levy of the Harvard School of Public Health concludes that the Mirant Power Plant is likely the single source that contributes most to particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) levels in Alexandria; and,

WHEREAS, according to Dr. Levy's study, the Mirant Power Plant is on of the highest contributors of PM_{2.5} per megawatt of power produced of any of the five power plants in the region evaluated in the study; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Levy's study estimates that the Mirant Power Plant contributes to approximately 0.9 deaths, 0.7 cardiovascular hospital admissions, and 0.4 pediatric asthma emergency room visits in Alexandria per year; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Levy's study concludes that reducing emissions from the Mirant Plant would provide the most health benefits to Alexandrians; and,

WHEREAS, the electricity needs of the region are currently dependent on the Mirant Power Plant making it a complicated regional decision to take the plant off line; and,

WHEREAS, the Environmental Policy Commission has heard from concerned citizens and the City of Alexandria staff on the impacts of the Mirant Power Plant; and

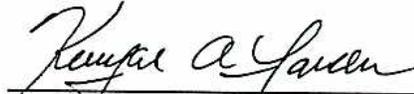
WHEREAS, in the City's limited authority to regulate the plant, it has made recommendations to the State to be incorporated into the permit issued to the Mirant Power Plant;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Environmental Policy Commission recommends that the City's goal should be to close Mirant Power Plant; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Environmental Policy Commission specifically recommends that the City:

- Rezone the parcels of land currently occupied by the Mirant Power Plant consistent with the future uses that the City anticipates after the plant is closed;
- Work closely with elected State officials to create legislation that will hasten the closure of the Mirant Power Plant; and,
- Support efforts by the State to ensure that nearby citizens and the environment are protected to the maximum degree possible until the facility is closed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Environmental Policy Commission commends the City for its proactive efforts to retain Dr. Levy to conduct a city-specific study of the plant and commends the efforts of Elizabeth Chimento and Poul Hourtel to represent the citizens living directly adjacent to the plant.



Kenyon A. Larsen
Chair, Environmental Policy Commission

6-22-04

Date