

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 7, 2004

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *ps*

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF THE FORMATION OF A COMMUNITY MONITORING GROUP FOR THE MIRANT POTOMAC RIVER POWER PLANT

ISSUE: Formation of a Community Monitoring Group for the Mirant Potomac River Power Plant.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Authorize the City Manager to establish the Mirant Community Monitoring Group (MCMG), with the charge and membership and under the conditions described below; and
- (2) Authorize the Mayor to appoint a member of Council to the MCMG.

DISCUSSION: During the Council meeting on September 28, the Manager recommended that Council approve the formation of a community group to serve as a central information-receiving and monitoring group for the numerous issues involving the Mirant Potomac River Power Plant. This recommendation is being docketed to enable Council to determine whether to form such a group. The group is seen as a means to facilitate the dissemination of accurate and timely information to the Alexandria community regarding these many Mirant issues.

Pertinent issues related to the formation of this group are as follows:

- Purpose and Charge of the MCMG
The purpose of the group will be to receive reports and track the progress on the many issues involving Mirant, including ongoing permit and other regulatory issues, Mirant's compliance with the recently-announced consent decree and consent order, the upcoming downwash study, and the facility performance audits that should begin before the end of the year. Members of the monitoring group would be expected to provide feedback to City Council and City staff and to assist in the dissemination of information to the wider stakeholder community. Such dissemination could involve community meetings or information sessions hosted by the monitoring group.

- Membership of the MCMG
The issues involved with Mirant are fairly complex and require a substantial investment of time to reach a working understanding of them. Staff, therefore, believe that the monitoring group should include citizens who have already shown significant involvement in the Mirant issues, have exhibited knowledge of the issues, and/or represent civic or citizen groups that either are significantly affected by the plant's operations or have shown considerable interest in the plant. Staff propose that the group have seven members, and consist of the following individuals: Mr. Poul Hertel, Ms. Elizabeth Chimento, a representative from North Old Town Independent Citizens Association (NOTICE), a representative from Marina Towers, a representative from the League of Women Voters, a representative from the Environmental Policy Commission, and a member of Council.
- Format and Frequency of Meetings
Staff suggest that this group meet on an informal basis, initially on a monthly basis. The frequency of these meetings may be changed as developments on various issues arise. One of the first meetings of the group would be a public information meeting at which representatives from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality would present and discuss the recent Mirant consent decree and consent order.
- Life of the MCMG
Staff propose that the group continue for approximately 12 months, until October 15, 2005, and that Council, at its first legislative meeting in October 2005, consider whether to instruct the Manager to extend the life of the group for a specified additional time.
- Staff for the MCMG
Staff for the MCMG will be provided by the Department of Transportation & Environmental Services and the City Attorney's Office.

STAFF:

Richard Baier, P.E., Director, T&ES

William J. Skrabak, Division Chief, Environmental Quality, T&ES