

## **Update on Implementation of City/Mirant “Agreement”**

The City and Mirant entered into an “Agreement” in July 2008 that required Mirant to invest \$34 million to pursue a “Project” aimed at reducing fugitive dust emissions (Phase I; \$2 million) and stack PM<sub>2.5</sub> (particulate matter less than 2.5 microns) emissions (Phase II; \$32 million budget). Shortly after, Mirant also received from Virginia DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) a state operating permit incorporating several provisions of this agreement. Accordingly, Mirant completed the \$35 million (in addition to the \$34 million committed in the Project) stack merge project in February 2009 aimed at reducing pollutant concentrations in the vicinity of the plant. Monitoring data indicates that the ambient 5-minute SO<sub>2</sub> (sulfur dioxide) concentration has been reduced after the stack merge project. SO<sub>2</sub> stack emission limit was set at 3,813 tons per year which is a 75% reduction from the 2002-2003 actual levels. PRGS was also one of the first existing power plants in Virginia to get an emission limit for PM<sub>2.5</sub>.

The Phase I study of the Project was completed in April 2009. Following on the study’s recommendations which were endorsed by the MCMG (Mirant Community Monitoring Group) and City Council, the street sweeper is currently operational at the plant on a daily basis. The new ash loader has also been operational since a few months. This upgrade of ash loading operation is designed to decrease fugitive dust emissions. Another project, the fogging dust suppression system is currently expected to be operational by year’s end. In consultation with the MCMG, the City will make a decision on whether to install the 30-ft windscreens for the coal pile as well as the coal conveyor drip pans as soon as the cost for the Phase II project is firmed up.

The Phase II engineering study was completed in April 2010 and it recommends the conversion of cold electrostatic precipitators for boilers #3, 4, and 5 to polishing baghouses and the upgrading of the control system for the hot electrostatic precipitators for boilers #1 and 2. The City considers the conclusions of this study and resulting recommendations to be a major milestone in the implementation of the “Agreement”. This study was a result of substantial engineering effort by the City and Mirant. It included a very detailed engineering analysis of the existing plant, testing of existing boiler fans, and elaborate transient analysis to evaluate safety issues with proposed upgrades. The City has been pushing for the installation of the baghouse since it is the most effective technology for controlling stack PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions. These recommendations were later endorsed by the MCMG and City Council.

The City is currently working with Mirant and the Engineer to evaluate potential bidders and choose an EPC (Engineering, Procurement, and Construction) contractor for the implementation of the Phase II project. The goal is to complete the contractor selection process by March 2011. The City will continue to keep our community informed of progress on this important project. For more information or to get on the mailing list to receive regular updates, contact Khoa Tran at 703-746-4076 or by e-mail ([khoadinh.tran@alexandriava.gov](mailto:khoadinh.tran@alexandriava.gov)).