



For Immediate Release

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Delaware Riverkeeper Network Challenges NJ Ruling on Dangerous Nuclear Energy Facility

Trenton, NJ: The Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) today filed a legal challenge, calling for a new hearing to review the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP) decision to issue a renewed permit to PSEG's Salem Nuclear Generating Station. This permit, if upheld, would extend the facility's use of once through cooling, a controversial technology that has been challenged by environmental organizations throughout the region as being out-dated, unnecessary, and responsible for annually killing billions of fish. NJDEP's decision has continued a pattern of haphazard regulation that has endangered the Delaware River's indigenous community of aquatic life. Today's action from DRN is the first step in reversing this unsafe policy.

"We are disappointed by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's failure to recognize the ongoing hazards of permitting the continued use of outdated technology at Salem when there are other proven eco-friendly technologies available," said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and the leader of the regional environmental organization, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network. "As protectors of the river and the ecosystem it contributes to, we see it as our responsibility to challenge this action in order to prevent the indiscriminate killing of the fish, eggs and larvae that are vital to a healthy economy. We will not allow NJDEP to abdicate its responsibility to protect our River, our fish, and our communities."

Issuance of an up-to-date permit for Salem had been prompted by legal action initiated in October 2013 by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, New Jersey Sierra Club and Clean Water Action. The legal action had requested a court order instructing that NJDEP take action on PSEG's permit renewal application for the Salem Nuclear Generating Station located in Lower Alloways Creek Township, New Jersey. PSEG had submitted its renewal application for a New Jersey Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NJPDDES) permit in February 2006, but NJDEP never made a determination on the application either by issuing a draft permit for public notice and comment, or by denying the permit. The case was resolved by a legal settlement in which New Jersey agreed to issue a permit draft. On June 30, 2015, complying with the settlement agreement, NJDEP issued a draft discharge permit to PSEG's Salem Nuclear Generating Station. On June 10, 2016, NJDEP issued a final permit. As a result, organizations like DRN now have the ability to legally challenge the use of outdated technologies at Salem that slaughter 14 billion fish, larvae and eggs from the Delaware River every year. Today's filing was submitted to the Office of Legal Affairs with New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection.

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Findings from an earlier expert report the Delaware Riverkeeper Network submitted to NJDEP during the permit's public comment period demonstrate the failings of the decision. Relevant findings include:

- Two major analyses show that stopping the killing of fish with closed cycle cooling could provide economic benefits worth up to \$577 million..... ECONorthwest, p. vii
- 14.7 billion fish a year are impinged and/or entrained at Salem. Closed cycle cooling at Salem would reduce this mortality by over 12.8 billion. ECONorthwest, p. 4
- 14.7 billion fish impinged & entrained at Salem a year translates into 360 million fish killed in an average year that, but for Salem, would have survived to age one. ECONorthwest, p. 4
- "The total installed cost of [closed cycle cooling at Salem] (\$852 million) represents about 31 percent of the companies [PSEG & Exelon, Salem's owners] combined annual capital expenditure, and the annual loan payment pf just two percent." ECONorthwest, p. 24
- Installing closed cycle cooling at Salem "would increase electricity rates by \$0.0036 per kWh." ECONorthwest, p. 25

Copies of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network comment and expert reports can be found at:

- <http://bit.ly/DRN-Salem2015Comment>
- <http://bit.ly/DRN-CEA2015SalemRept>
- <http://bit.ly/DRN-SalemExpertReport>

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[Delaware Riverkeeper Network \(DRN\)](#) is a nonprofit membership organization working throughout the 4 states of the Delaware River Watershed including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and New York. DRN provides effective environmental advocacy, volunteer monitoring programs, stream restoration projects, public education, and legal enforcement of environmental protection laws.