



For Immediate Release

September 1, 2015

Contacts:

Maya K. van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, Delaware Riverkeeper Network,
215 369 1188 ext 102 (rings office & cell)

David Pringle, NJ Campaign Director, Clean Water Action, (732) 996-4288

Doug O'Malley, Director, Environment New Jersey, 917 449 6812

Jeff Tittel, Director, NJ Sierra Club, 609-558-9100

NJDEP Grants Request for Comment Extension On Salem Nuclear Generating Station Permit Allowing 3 Billion Fish Killed a Year

Trenton, NJ: After initially denying a request by 13 conservation and fish organizations and over 600 individuals to grant an extension to the comment period and provide additional hearings on the draft Clean Water Act Permit issued for the Salem Nuclear Generating Station, today the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) granted the public a little bit more time. NJDEP had been receiving a steady stream of additional requests for more time from the Delaware Riverkeeper Network (including because of the agency's failure to provide full documentation in response to an Open Public Records Act Request) and concerned members of the public (an estimated 300 more) and in apparent response, today via email, the agency granted a 14 day extension of time to comment.

"PSEG's Salem Generating Station kills over 3 billion fish a year. The fish kills at this facility and the political dealmaking that has allowed it to continue for over 40 years has made Salem one of the most contentious issues in New Jersey, and one that has received national focus because of the dangerous precedent NJDEP has allowed this facility to set. The original sixty days and one hearing during the height of vacation season seemed an obvious effort to deny us the ability to fully and fairly comment. While an additional 14 days that includes labor

DELAWARE RIVERKEEPER NETWORK
925 Canal Street, Suite 3701
Bristol, PA 19007
Office: (215) 369-1188
fax: (215) 369-1181
dmn@delawareriverkeeper.org
www.delawareriverkeeper.org

day weekend and the start of a new school year is far from what we asked for or what is needed, it is better than what we had and we graciously accept it," said **Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper.**

"Two additional weeks isn't much time to convince Governor Chris "supposedly I mean what I say" Christie to do the job he was elected to do, put New Jersey before his presidential aspirations, and deliver on his 2009 pledge to stop the fish slaughter at Salem (even if it's over 5 years late), but we'll take it!", said David Pringle, NJ Campaign Director Clean Water Action. "Maybe he'd climb out of 11th place if he actually really meant he means what he says and he says what he means!"

Then gubernatorial candidate Chris Christie authorized the following in an October 2009 press release (<http://tinyurl.com/nkbvx63>): 'Christie's key environmental planks stand in stark contrast to Jon Corzine's failed record and broken promises over the last four years: ...; enacting policies in the first 100 days to stop the fish slaughter resulting from flawed cooling systems at the Salem and Oyster Creek nuclear plants.'

"The Salem nuclear plant permit has been nine years in the making. 60 days in the dead of summer and one public hearing isn't enough time for the public to weigh in," said **Doug O'Malley, Director of Environment New Jersey.** "DEP is right to give the public two more weeks to weigh in on the region's largest industrial fish killer. This permit should not be rubber stamped."

"We now have 14 more days for the public to comment on Salem's draft permit and tell the DEP to stop the slaughter and demand cooling towers. This plant robs the river of clean water and kills more than three billion fish a year. Installing cooling towers will not only fix the problem of pollution and fish slaughter, but it would also create construction jobs. The DEP has no justifiable reason to allow the pollution and slaughter to continue." **said Jeff Tittel, Director of the New Jersey Sierra Club.** "By extending the comment period, we have more time to show we won't give up that easily. We need everyone to stand up and comment on the fish kill!"

An email sent out this morning by NJDEP officials reads:

The Department issued a draft New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDDES) permit for the above referenced facility on June 30, 2015. We recognize that you have provided comments on this permit action. As stated in the public notice associated with the June 30, 2015 permit action, the public comment period was set to expire on September 4, 2015.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:14A-15.14 and -15.10, the Department is hereby

adding 14 days to the public comment period thereby extending the public comment deadline to September 18, 2015.

Any interested party who wishes to provide comments prior to this deadline shall submit such comments by electronic mail or by any other means which provides verification of the date of delivery to the Department. The Department will consider all comments that are postmarked on or prior to September 18, 2015.

The Draft Permit, which took the state nine years to draft and was finalized and released in response to a legal action brought by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, NJ Clean Water Action and New Jersey Sierra Club, allows the facility to continue with the once through cooling system that kills over 3 billion Delaware River fish a year. The original comment period spanned the two highest vacation months of the year, July and August and ended on September 4, just before labor day weekend. The one hearing provided was on August 5th.

#####