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Gerald Hansler, Executive Director  
David J. Goldberg, Esq., General  
Delaware River Basin Commission  
25 State Police Road  
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50-352  
50-353

Dear Messrs. Hansler and Mr. Goldberg:

In response to your August 31, 1982 offer to respond to any inquiries the NRC staff might have about the actions of the DRC in the Point Pleasant Diversion Project (Deposition of Gerald Hansler taken at the Delaware River Basin Commission, West Trenton, New Jersey), the staff accepts and formally submits the enclosed questions. (Enclosure 1) A preliminary draft of these questions was supplied to you at the August 31, 1982 deposition.

In view of the hearing dates, October 4-8, 1982, set by the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board for consideration of Point Pleasant issues, the staff would appreciate your timely response. Please contact Dr. Harvey Abelson, the project manager, if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A. Schwencer, Chief  
Licensing Branch No. 2  
Division of Licensing

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc: See next page

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NEPA  
GENERAL

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DATE	9/16/82	9/16/82					

ENCLOSURE 1

NRC STAFF QUESTIONS TO DRBC REGARDING POINT PLEASANT DIVERSION PROJECT

1. Exactly what intake structure design, location and operation (i.e., flow rates, assumed period of operation) were evaluated by DRBC in their environmental impact assessments done in 1980? (i.e., the update of the 1973 EIS) on the Point Pleasant Diversion?

Has the present combination of design location and operation been assessed by DRBC? If so, when and what document is the assessment contained in?

2. What DRBC water quality data are available on the Delaware River in the vicinity of Pt. Pleasant? Has DRBC sampled for or contracted sampling for EPA priority pollutants in the Delaware River or its tributaries (such as Tohickon Creek)? If so, provide the data.
3. What is the current status of DRBC Resolution 78-70, (Schedule of Implementation/Decision) Interstate Water Management Plan, July 19, 1982? How were the Trenton flow values mentioned that are in this document derived? What is the impact of this new proposed flow regime on the water quality and biota in the Delaware River? Has an EIS been prepared or will one be prepared on these proposed changes in flow? If not, provide the rationale for not preparing an EIS. How does this proposed change influence previous DRBC assessments, specifically the EIS and EIA prepared for the Point Pleasant Diversion?
4. Will a minimum flow in the East Branch Perkiomen Creek be maintained on a year-round basis? If so, provide the flow rate. Will this flow be maintained during periods when the flow in the Delaware River at Trenton is below 3000 cfs or will other flow criterion be established pursuant to DRBC Resolution 78-70? Describe the mechanics of this flow augmentation (i.e., flow rates, restrictions, etc.).
5. Provide the current status and schedule for implementation of the Merrill Creek Project. What permits need to be secured? Describe any potential problem areas that may affect the schedule.
6. How will releases from Merrill Creek be permitted by DRBC to govern operation of the Point Pleasant Diversion for PECO withdrawals, i.e., if low flow augmentation releases are made? Will this guarantee PECO withdrawals for Limerick operation despite flow in Delaware River being below any flow criterion level at Trenton?
7. Describe the dissolved oxygen model used to predict dissolved oxygen levels in the lower Delaware River during low flow. How will operation of the Point Pleasant Diversion influence dissolved oxygen levels in the lower Delaware? How was this determined? Who performed the analysis? How reliable is this model, and the Point Pleasant analysis? Did this model take into account the Neshaminy Water Resource Authority withdrawals that will be returned to the watershed as sewage?

8. Does DRBC 78-70 take into account dissolved oxygen levels and position of salt wedge in lower river? Has this analyses been done at reduced flow levels?

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