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*Executive Director*

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Sharon DeMeo  
U.S. EPA  
1 Congress Street, Suite 1100  
Mailcode CIP  
Boston, MA 02114-2023

Subject: NPDES Permit Conditions for Mirant Canal Station  
Sandwich, Massachusetts  
Permit Number MA0004928

Dear Ms. DeMeo:

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC), Cape Cod's nonprofit environmental advocacy organization, writes to you in regard to the Draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit conditions for cooling water withdrawals and pollutant discharges for the Mirant Canal Station.

As an organization dedicated to the protection of Cape Cod's natural resources, APCC is concerned about any uses or activities that would adversely impact the Cape Cod Canal's water quality or the marine organisms located there. It is of critical importance that the method used for the intake of cooling water for the Mirant Canal Station be permitted only under the strictest safeguards, and that impacts to fish and other organisms be minimized to the greatest extent possible.

Therefore, APCC supports utilization of a Cooling Water Intake Structure (CWIS) that reflects the best technology available (BTA) for reducing impacts to marine organisms. APCC also supports the careful analysis conducted by the EPA, which resulted in a determination that closed-cycle cooling, or an alternate method that achieves the same level of protection, is the BTA for this project.

APCC urges the EPA and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to adopt the proposed conditions pertaining to CWIS, as specified in the draft NPDES permit.

APCC thanks the EPA for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Maggie Geist  
Executive Director

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