

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 17, 2004

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

SUBJECT: FUNDING FOR CONSULTANT SERVICES FOR THE CITY EFFORT TO ADDRESS AIR QUALITY CONCERNS RELATED TO THE MIRANT POTOMAC RIVER POWER PLANT

**ISSUE:** Consideration of an allocation from FY 2005 Contingent Reserves to provide funding for technical and project management consulting services to address air quality concerns related to the Mirant Potomac River Generating Plant.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council approve an allocation of \$95,000 from FY 2005 Contingent Reserves to provide funding for consultant services to assist staff with technical and project management issues related to Mirant Potomac River Generating Plant.

**DISCUSSION:** For years, concerns have been expressed about the air quality issues related to the Mirant Potomac River Power Plant. In the past six months, Council has taken a number of actions regarding the plant, including the formation last month of the Mirant Community Monitoring Group. Due to the increased complexity of the air quality issues being addressed and the increased level of activity needed to address these issues, it has become necessary for staff to seek additional resources to supplement our own efforts in the Mirant area.

The requested \$95,000 would cover consulting services, beginning December 1, 2004, and estimated to continue through June 30, 2005 on an as-needed basis. Services provided will range from project management to providing specialized technical advice, regarding:

- Technical and regulatory compliance and performance of Mirant related to requirements of the federal consent decree and VADEQ consent order;
- Providing expertise in national power grid systems, power plant design, and pollution control equipment design to enable the City to evaluate representations made by Mirant;
- Regulatory impacts evaluation;
- Emissions tracking, inventory and analysis;
- Assessment of new federal air quality regulations and their impacts on the Mirant plant;
- Managing the monitoring plan that will follow the Mirant modeling study;
- Conducting air quality assessments as needed;
- Assisting staff in pursuing purchase of clean energy for City facilities.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** This total cost of the requested consulting work is \$95,000 through June 2005. There is currently \$738,700 in Contingent Reserve funding available to be allocated for this item.

**STAFF:**

Ignacio B. Pessoa, City Attorney

Richard Baier, P.E., Director, T&ES

William J. Skrabak, Division Chief, Environmental Quality, T&ES