



Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention (CDC)  
Atlanta GA 30333

JUL 2 2007

Mr. Robert E. Driscoll  
Chief Executive Officer  
Mirant Mid-Atlantic, LLC  
8301 Professional Place, Suite 230  
Landover, Maryland 20785

Dear Mr. Driscoll:

Thank you for your letter to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) concerning the ongoing Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Exposure Investigation near Mirant's Potomac River Generating Plant.

Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), commonly known as the "Superfund" Act, and the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA), ATSDR is charged to conduct public health assessments. The public health assessments evaluate whether people will be harmed by hazardous materials from waste sites or from other places where hazardous substances have been spilled or released into the environment. An exposure investigation is one approach ATSDR uses to develop better characterization of past, current, and possible future human exposures to hazardous substances in the environment and to evaluate existing and possible health effects related to those exposures more thoroughly.

In the situation with the Mirant Potomac River Generating Plant, the Alexandria Health Department, one of 35 health district offices that comprise the Commonwealth of Virginia's statewide public health system, requested that ATSDR perform an evaluation of this site. ATSDR considered input from the City of Alexandria, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Environmental Protection Agency, Mirant, and other interested stakeholders in our review of this request. We found that the concern brought to us by the Alexandria Health Department about possible public health effects in this community had merit and deserved evaluation.

ATSDR's decision to collect monitoring information is based strictly on the science and sound public health practice. ATSDR is moving forward to obtain monitoring information to fill data gaps. We are aware that operations at the plant will change beginning on July 1. ATSDR has determined it is important to collect data during June 2007 as well as during a period of more reduced emissions. These data are important to better characterize current and recent emissions. In addition, monitoring information bridging a period of higher and lower operating periods will provide valuable insights for any potential future mitigation options, if needed.

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It is worthwhile noting that monitors operated by Mirant and other parties have been and will continue to collect data during the same time that ATSDR is conducting monitoring. ATSDR's monitoring data will be an important complement to monitoring data collected by Mirant and others. ATSDR is willing to repeat our monitoring efforts to assess changes in exposures that may be achieved by future modifications to the Mirant facility.

Finally, Mr. Jeff Holmstead, Assistant Administrator for Air & Radiation, Environmental Protection Agency has requested that ATSDR officials meet with officials from Mirant to discuss the comparison values to be used to interpret the monitoring results. Please contact Ms. Lora Siegmann Werner, Senior Regional Representative, ATSDR Region 3, if you would like to coordinate a time to discuss this issue. She can be reached at (215) 814-3141, or via e-mail at [lwerner@cdc.gov](mailto:lwerner@cdc.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Louise Gerberding". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "G".

Julie Louise Gerberding, M.D., M.P.H.  
Director, Centers for Disease Control and  
Prevention, and  
Administrator, Agency for Toxic Substances and  
Disease Registry