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March 17, 2008

Dr. Julie L. Gerberding  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road, NE  
MS D14  
Atlanta, GA 30333



Dear Dr. Gerberding:

As you know, the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is working on a health assessment related to Mirant's Potomac River Generating Station (PRGS) in Alexandria, Virginia and plans to publish a report on air quality in Alexandria entitled *Exposure Investigation: Airborne Exposures to Sulfur Dioxide, Particulate Matter, and Selected Metals*. As we understand it, ATSDR is currently analyzing data collected over a 6-week period in 2007 and plans to issue a draft of its report later this year.

As you can imagine, this report is of great interest to Mirant Corporation (Mirant). The City of Alexandria and a group of local activists have waged a very public campaign to close PRGS, even though the Plant is meeting all environmental standards. Statements made in the past by ATSDR have been taken out of context and used inappropriately as part of this campaign, and Mirant is seeking to ensure that the upcoming report cannot be misused.

Mirant has had regular contacts with ATSDR staff about the report, and we have appreciated the chance to discuss a number of technical issues with them. We continue, however, to have several major concerns about the process by which the study has been conducted, and the potential inconsistencies between ATSDR, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the health effects of sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>). We also want to be sure that the report makes a distinction between ambient levels of SO<sub>2</sub>, which are properly attributable to emissions from PRGS, and ambient levels of particulate matter and selected metals, which have very little or nothing to do with the Plant.

I am writing on behalf of Mirant to request a meeting with you and your senior staff to discuss these issues. We believe that it may also be useful to include appropriate EPA representatives in this meeting as well. We would propose to address the following topics at such a meeting:

- o Health benchmarks for SO<sub>2</sub>, including ATSDR's screening levels for inhalation exposures to SO<sub>2</sub>
- o The scope of the health assessment
- o The need to differentiate between Mirant's emissions and background levels of pollution in the area
- o The need for interagency coordination in light of EPA's ongoing review of the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for SO<sub>2</sub>

If at all possible, we would like to schedule a meeting with you within the next few weeks. Given the desirability of including EPA, it may be appropriate to hold the meeting in Washington, DC, but we would of course be willing to meet with you in Atlanta if that would be more convenient. We look forward to working with you to arrange a meeting to discuss these important issues.

Sincerely,

*Debra L. Raggio /spsg*

Debra L. Raggio  
Vice President and Assistant General Counsel

cc: Howard Frumkin, MD, DrPH, Director, ATSDR  
Tom Sinks, PhD, Deputy Director, ATSDR  
Lora Siegmann Werner, MPH, ATSDR

