

## What's New

- **Alexandria Significantly Improves Air Quality and Protects Public Health with Power Plant Closure**

Monday, October 1, 2012, marks a significant milestone for the City of Alexandria and its residents which is the permanent closure of the GenOn Potomac River Generating Station (PRGS). For several years this facility has been the single largest source of air pollutants in Northern Virginia. Its closure is a culmination of intense and unwavering efforts by the residents and the City Government for more than a decade. From the City's perspective, operation of the PRGS had been a serious public health issue. In response to citizens' concern, the City Council adopted a resolution in 2004 stating the City's policy to clean up PRGS in the short term and close it down permanently in the long term.



The City then participated in the State regulatory process which resulted in the issuance of a comprehensive permit for this plant in 2008 having tight emission limits that conform to all National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The same year, the City and GenOn also reached a Settlement Agreement requiring GenOn to spend \$34 million on improved stack gas and fugitive fine particulate matter controls in addition to the \$35 million the company spent on its stack merge project aimed at mitigating air quality issues in the plant vicinity. Subsequently and before the City and GenOn committed to installing the improved baghouse technology at this facility, the two parties reached an agreement on August 29, 2011 to permanently close the company's PRGS facility by October 1, 2012, in exchange for the return of about \$32 million to the company.

This plant closure is consistent with the Eco-City Alexandria's Environmental Action Plan and benefits both Alexandria residents and those living in the Washington Metropolitan areas. An additional benefit is the drastic reduction in the emissions of greenhouse gas which is believed to be the major contributor to the current climate change issue.

"This plant closure is a testament to the City's commitment to environmental stewardship, public health protection, and the Eco-City Alexandria initiative" said Alexandria's Mayor William D. Euille.

For a timeline of key milestones in the Alexandria community efforts to close down PRGS, please [click](#) here.

On September 27, 2012, GenOn notified the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) that it will no longer operate any of the coal-fired boilers or generate electricity at the Potomac River Generating Station as of 00:00 on October 1, 2012. GenOn will work with VDEQ in making a mutual determination that PRGS is permanently shut down on or before December 31, 2012. As a result of this determination, all air permits issued to PRGS by VDEQ will be revoked.

### **GenOn Announces Its Intent to Merge with NRG**

On July 22, 2012, GenOn announced that it intends to merge with NRG to form an approximately 47,000 megawatt industry leader that will keep the NRG name. Importantly, previously announced GenOn deactivations, including the Potomac River station, will stay on schedule.

- **GenOn PRGS Retirement Date Confirmed**

On July 3, 2012, GenOn confirmed that the retirement date for the Potomac River Generating Station facility will be October 1, 2012. This date was agreed upon by the City and GenOn as part of the Amendment to Project Schedule and Agreement signed by both parties on August 29, 2011. For more details, click on the following link: <http://www.genon.com/company/stations/potomac/potomac-river-closing-confirm.aspx>

- **Virginia DEQ Issued Consent Order to GenOn PRGS**

The Virginia DEQ executed a consent order issued to GenOn Potomac River LLC regarding violations of the operating permit that happened at the Potomac River Generating Station (PRGS) located in Alexandria. As a result, GenOn agrees to pay a civil charge of \$280,704 within the next 30 days.

Violations related to this [consent order](#) include the following:

- The CEMS (Continuous Emissions Monitoring System) data submitted by the plant indicated that on six occasions during June-July 2011, the 30-day rolling average NOx emissions were 0.28 lb/MMBtu, compared to the permitted limit of 0.27 lb/MMBtu as stipulated by the Permit Condition 28.
- No water fogging system was installed within the enclosure of the bottom ash silo, which violates the Permit Condition 10. Please note that this is different from the fogging system installed on the fly ash loading areas as part of the Phase I project.
- **Grid Operator PJM (Pennsylvania New Jersey Maryland Interconnections) found no reliability issues related to the planned retirement of the Potomac River Generating Station**  
The City and GenOn signed an Amendment to the Project Schedule and Agreement on August 29, 2011 which stipulates the retirement of the Potomac River Generating Station (PRGS) on October 1, 2012, subject to PJM finding that the facility is no longer needed for reliability as of the date of the retirement. Per this Amendment, GenOn sent a letter to PJM Interconnection, LLC, to request the deactivation (i.e., retirement) of the Potomac River Generating Station on October 1, 2012. Responding to this request, PJM performed a detailed analysis of the PJM Transmission System and did not identify any reliability violations resulting from the requested deactivation of the PRGS facility. Similarly, PEPSCO Transmission carried out the same analysis for its lower voltage system and found no reliability violations. The PJM analysis thus concluded that all five generating units of PRGS could actually be deactivated at any time. This clears the path for PRGS facility to be retired by the agreed upon date of October 1, 2012. Click [here](#) to see the written response from PJM.
- **MCMG Meeting was held on September 29, 2011 to Discuss the City/GenOn Amended Agreement Signed on August 29, 2011.**
  - [Agenda and handouts](#)
- **Potomac River Generating Station to Close**  
The City of Alexandria and GenOn Energy reached an agreement to permanently close the company's Potomac River Generating Station, which began operating in 1949. Under the terms of the agreement, GenOn agreed to retire the generating station by October 1, 2012, or, if the plant was needed beyond that date for reliability purposes, as soon as it would be no longer needed. The Mirant Community Monitoring Group met on [September 29](#) to update members of the public on the agreement to permanently close the GenOn Power River Generating Station. For more information on the closure of the generating station, [read the news release](#). [Click here to see the signed agreement](#).

## About GenOn Potomac River Generating Station

GenOn Potomac River, LLC (Mirant) owns and operates the Potomac River Generating Station (PRGS) in the City of Alexandria. The PRGS is a coal-fired electric generating plant with a generating capacity of 482 megawatts. It is one of the largest industrial facilities in Alexandria. Because of the age of this plant, the impacts on the local community from its emissions and its compliance record, the City Council and the community has continued concerns about its ongoing operations.

The purpose of this web page is to provide the interested citizens the most updated information regarding Council's Actions, Staff's Actions, Actions taken by regulatory authorities and other relevant information of interest. The website is divided into several categories as indicated by the various links on the left side. New and updated information will be posted periodically as it becomes available. Announcements of upcoming meetings will also be posted on this website. Please click on the links below or to the left to access the most recent information available.

- [City / GenOn \(Mirant\) Settlement Agreement of July 2008](#)
  - [Potomac River Generating Station Information Archive](#)
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