

Testimony of
PSEG Power Connecticut
Connecticut General Assembly
Committee on the Environment
January 30, 2013

Re: Raised Bill No. 564: An Act Concerning Mercury Emissions at Certain Power Plants

Chairs Meyer and Gentile, Ranking Members Chapin and Shaban, and members of the General Assembly's Environment Committee:

PSEG Power Connecticut appreciates the opportunity to offer this testimony in support of Raised Bill No. 564.

PSEG Power Connecticut owns and operates the Bridgeport Harbor and New Haven Harbor generating stations. The Company is a subsidiary of PSEG Power LLC, one of the nation's largest independent power producers and is an indirect subsidiary of Public Service Enterprise Group Incorporated (PSEG), a diversified energy holding company headquartered in the neighboring State of New Jersey.

The coal-fired unit at Bridgeport is now the only coal-fired unit operating in Connecticut and, is therefore, the only power plant subject to the mercury emissions requirements established by the Legislature in Public Act-03-72. This ground-breaking legislation was the first of its kind in the nation when it was enacted in 2003. PSEG Power Connecticut worked with this Committee, the then CTDEP, and environmental advocates to draft the legislation and we vigorously campaigned for its enactment.

PSEG Power Connecticut invested approximately \$150 million to install mercury emissions control technology at Bridgeport to comply with the legislation. The technology has been operating since 2008 and has consistently reduced mercury emissions at the station in the 90-95% range, meeting or exceeding requirements. The system also has been reducing particulate emissions by 90-95%. The collective success of our partnership with the State in establishing and meeting stringent mercury emissions requirements has been cited and used as a model by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in proposing federal mercury emissions regulations.

Raised Bill No. 564 would adjust the frequency of emissions stack testing from quarterly to annually once an affected unit demonstrates compliance after eight consecutive quarterly tests. The bill includes a provision to return to quarterly stack tests should an annual test not demonstrate compliance.

Annual stack testing would be consistent with existing requirements for Connecticut's trash-to-energy facilities and the final federal mercury emissions regulations for qualifying low-emitting coal-fired electric generating units. In addition, annual stack testing is included in regulations in New Jersey, where we also have installed state-of-the-art mercury emissions reduction technology on two coal-fired plants.

Raised Bill No. 564 better reflects how our Bridgeport coal unit now operates. It would avoid the probability of having to start up the unit – and create emissions – just for the purpose of performing a stack test. This bill is a common sense measure that we are pleased to support and we urge its enactment.