

AEP March 2010 Lunch Program

Power Plant Cooling Water Systems and Marine Life – Issues and Regulations

Section 316(b) of the federal Clean Water Act requires that the location, design, construction, and capacity of cooling water intake structures reflect the best technology available (BTA) to minimize adverse environmental impacts (AEI) to aquatic organisms (i.e., fish, shellfish, and other forms of aquatic life) due to (1) impingement mortality on intake screens, and (2) entrainment of eggs and larvae through cooling water systems. There are 19 coastal power plants in California, including 12 in southern California, that utilize once through cooling water systems and are subject to §316(b). Section 316(b) has been heavily contested ever since EPA first attempted to implement it in 1976. The EPA efforts have consisted of implementing the original regulations in 1976, withdrawing substantial portions in 1977 due to legal challenges, and getting sued in 1993 for failing to establish national technology-based standards for cooling water intakes, in violation of the Clean Water Act. In 2004, EPA adopted §316(b) Phase II regulations for existing power plants, which applied to most coastal power plants in California. In 2005, these plants began activities to comply with these new rules. However, in 2007, following legal challenges by both environmental and industrial representatives, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals remanded several provisions of the regulations back to EPA for clarification, while determining other provisions were impermissible. In 2005, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) initiated the public development process for a state-wide once-through cooling policy. This process has consisted of public meetings, solicitation of written comments, and publication of three draft policies and a substitute environmental document. The SWRCB could vote on the new policy at their next schedule board meeting. The presentation will provide an overview of state and federal efforts to regulate once through cooling water intake structures, including those in southern California. The Huntington Beach Generating Station serves as a local case study to examine efforts to achieve compliance with once-through cooling water regulations in the last 30 years.

This lunch program will be presented by Shane Beck, President of MBC Applied Environmental Sciences (Costa Mesa, CA). MBC is an environmental consulting firm specializing in oceanographic and marine biological studies, and has performed 316(b) compliance studies for most of southern California's coastal power plants since the 1970s.

Space is limited to 60 people, so make your reservations today!

- WHEN:** Thursday, March 4, 2010
Reception will begin at 11:30 am with our presentation from **noon to 1:00 pm**
- WHERE:** Woodbury Community Center
130 Sanctuary, Irvine, California 92606-5208
(Driving directions, click [here](#))
- MENU:** Lunch will be catered by [Corner Bakery](#).
- COST:** \$15 per person (pre-registered AEP Member)
\$20 per person (late registration, subject to availability, or non -Member)
\$12 per student (pre-registered)
Note: Attendees who RSVP in advance and bring their own lunch are FREE!

RESERVATIONS AND MORE INFORMATION

Email David Crook - OCAEP Co-Vice President/Programs
At rsvp.aep@gmail.com by 12:00PM on Tuesday 3/2/2010