



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUN 25 2002

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

Chris M. Hobson
Vice President
Environmental Affairs
Bin 10221
241 Ralph McGill Boulevard, NE
Atlanta, GA 30308-3374

Re: Petition for Extension of Certification Deadline for Wansley, Unit 6A (ORIS Code 6052)

Dear Mr. Hobson:

This is in response to your June 5, 2002 petition under § 75.66 (a), in which Georgia Power requested an extension of the continuous emission monitoring system (CEMS) certification deadline for Wansley, Unit 6A. EPA approves the petition, subject to the conditions discussed below.

Background

Georgia Power owns and operates a new combined cycle turbine plant, known as Unit 6A, at its Wansley facility. Unit 6A is subject to the Acid Rain Program. The unit commenced commercial operation on January 23, 2002. According to § 75.4 (b)(2), all required CEMS certifications for a new Acid Rain Program unit must be completed no later than 90 days after the unit commences commercial operation. In the case of Wansley Unit 6A, the CEMS certification deadline was April 22, 2002.

According to the June 5, 2002 petition, all required certification tests for Unit 6A except for the 7-day calibration error test of the NO_x-diluent monitoring system, were completed prior to the April 22, 2002 deadline. The 7-day calibration error test was not completed until June 1, 2002, due to sporadic operation of the unit and a leak in the calibration gas system.

Georgia Power requested an extension of the certification test deadline for Unit 6A. In particular, Georgia Power asked to use the new CEMS certification deadline established in recent revisions to § 75.4(b)(2), which were signed by the Administrator on May 1, 2002. Revised § 75.4(b)(2) states that for new Acid Rain Program units, all monitoring systems must be installed and certified on or before "the earlier of 90 unit operating days or 180 calendar days after the

date the unit commences commercial operation". See 67 Fed.Reg. 40394, 40421 (June 12, 2002). These revised monitoring requirements will become effective on July 12, 2002. Georgia Power further noted that Unit 6A operated only 45 days in the time interval extending from the commencement of commercial operation to completion of the certification testing, i.e., from January 23, 2002 to June 1, 2002.

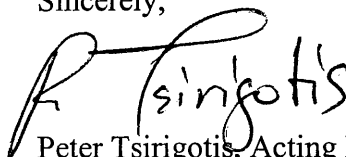
EPA's Determination

EPA is granting Georgia Power's request to extend the CEMS certification deadline for the unit until 90 unit operating days or 180 calendar days after the date of commencement of commercial operation. Problems associated with the unit's control system and with the calibration gas system prevented the 7-day calibration error testing from being completed within 90 calendar days, as required by the current rule. Under similar circumstances, EPA has approved petitions from other facilities for extensions of monitoring system certification deadlines. Although the revised § 75.4 (b)(2) is not yet effective, the new CEMS certification deadline in that rule provides a reasonable basis for setting an extended deadline in this case, where an extension is warranted.

In the June 5, 2002 petition, Georgia Power stated its intent to report emissions data for Unit 6A beginning with the original "day 90" (i.e., April 22, 2002), rather than the date on which the certification tests were completed. EPA concurs with this approach. Therefore, as a condition of approval, Georgia Power must report the maximum potential NO_x emission rate (MER), as defined in § 72.2, in the period from April 22, 2002 to June 1, 2002.

EPA's approval of Georgia Power's petition under § 75.66 (a) relies on the accuracy and completeness of the information in the June 5, 2002 letter and is appealable under Part 78. If you have any questions or concerns about this matter, please contact Robert Vollaro of my staff at (202) 564-9116. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Tsirigotis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a stylized "Tsirigotis".

Peter Tsirigotis, Acting Director
Clean Air Markets Division

cc: Lynn Haynes, EPA Region IV
Larry Webber, Georgia EPD
Robert Vollaro, EPA, CAMD