

camouflaged or screened. Further, the fact that these large plants are preferentially being placed in rural areas creates considerable opposition to such visual intrusion.

It is an emotional issue, not well suited to analytical treatment, and one on which reasonable

people often reach strongly opposing views. With respect to this issue, the Public Service Commission must depend on its knowledge of power needs, acceptable alternatives, and the general policies of the government concerning this type of development with concurrent regard for aesthetic interests as expressed by the public.

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## V. PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS

*The program has been effective in exercising environmental controls through constraints imposed in the regulatory permit process. The studies place the environmental basis for such constraints in a form suitable for consideration by all concerned parties.*

Power plant siting is, indeed, a multidisciplinary effort, intended to support the state in its quest for expanded power generation, while assuring that environmental factors are properly considered and that unavoidable impacts are evaluated in advance of the decision to commit the resources in question. The evaluation studies are site specific giving emphasis to the major problems of the site while striving for an acceptable degree of completeness relative to all environmental problems that might arise.

APL's role, and also that of the other Johns Hopkins University participants, is scientific, experimental, and analytic. The product is a series of technical reports that are delivered to the Maryland Power Plant Siting Program. These reports form the scientific basis for technical recommendations to the Public Service Commission. They are submitted in evidence at the Public Service Commission hearings as a State exhibit, and are made available to the general public. Sections of the report have, in turn, been used by intervenors to support their case against approval of construction.

University staff members have appeared as witnesses in Public Service Commission and Zoning Board hearings to explain and clarify the contents of the technical reports. Thus far, testimony has

been given in Brandon Shores and Dickerson hearings. In addition, staff members have appeared in public information presentations in Charles County to describe technical studies under way at Douglas Point (nuclear). Neither in report, hearing, or information meeting does the University recommend concerning the basic question of approval or denial of the application.

The reports issued and the testimony given relative to environmental matters have been treated by the hearing boards as a significant and competent effort on the part of the State government and the University to provide answers to these important questions. Environmental data and analysis are being made available to a depth never before experienced in these hearings.

As a result, the hearings have moved relatively smoothly in these areas. There are, of course, deep probing questions, and a search to be sure that significant problems have not been overlooked. Nor does the availability of the material necessarily alter personal positions which are often based on a complex of both technical and non-technical considerations. The work does serve to place the technical conditions which must be imposed on the utility and the environmental reasons for those restrictions in a position to be understood by all parties.