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DEEP CREEK STATION  
YOUGHIOGHENY RIVER  
WATER TEMPERATURE ENHANCEMENT PLAN  
MAY 1995

# PENNSYLVANIA ELECTRIC COMPANY

## DEEP CREEK STATION

### YOUGHIOGHENY RIVER WATER TEMPERATURE ENHANCEMENT PLAN

#### OBJECTIVE

This plan prescribes how Pennsylvania Electric Company (Penelec) will operate Deep Creek Station to enhance water temperature in the Youghiogheny River and to monitor river water temperature in accordance with Condition 16 of the Water Appropriation and Use Permit (Permit Number GA92S009(01)) issued by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Water Resources Administration. Temperature enhancement will support MDNR's program to establish and sustain a quality brown and rainbow trout fishery in the Youghiogheny River downstream from the Deep Creek Station tailrace. MDNR is primarily concerned with the reach between the tailrace and Sang Run. To the extent possible, operation for temperature enhancement is to provide releases usable for whitewater boating.

#### WATER TEMPERATURE MONITORING AND ENHANCEMENT PERIOD

This plan will be implemented during the months of June, July, and August. [Historically, these have been the only months in which water temperatures in the reach between the Deep Creek Station tailrace and Sang Run have exceeded 25.0°C.]

When river flows at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) gage at Oakland are greater than or equal to 100 cfs, temperature enhancement will not be required. [Historically, river water temperatures downstream of Deep Creek Station have remained at or below 25.0°C when natural Youghiogheny River flows at Oakland are greater than 100 cfs.]

#### WATER TEMPERATURE MONITORING INSTRUMENT

Prior to June 1 of each year, a water temperature monitoring instrument will be installed in the river at the Sang Run bridge and will remain in the river to record water temperatures through August 31. The instrument will be connected to the local telephone company network for remote interrogation. Temperatures will be recorded at intervals of not less than one half hour either by the instrument for later downloading or by a computer automatically interrogating the instrument. [MDNR and Penelec have determined that Sang Run is the best location for both monitoring temperatures and predicting maximum temperatures between the tailrace and Sang Run.]

The instrument will have a monitoring accuracy of  $0.1^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Calibration will be checked at intervals not less than the interval recommended by the manufacturer.

## MONITORING OF YOUGHIOGHENY RIVER FLOWS

The USGS gage at Oakland will be used to monitor Youghiogheny River flows. If flows at the Oakland gage are less than 100 cfs, the Water Temperature Enhancement Protocol (or Contingency Protocol) described below will be implemented.

The Oakland flow data will be obtained from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' River Bulletin Board at 0700 hours. The most current data available from the River Bulletin Board will be used to determine if flows are less than 100 cfs. [There is approximately a four hour time lag in reporting of flows at the Oakland gage.]

If Oakland gage data are unavailable, flow data from the USGS gage at Friendsville will be used to estimate natural river flow at Oakland. If the lowest flow at Friendsville over the previous 24 hour period is less than 189 cfs, the Water Temperature Enhancement Protocol (or Contingency Protocol) will be implemented. [A flow of 189 cfs at Friendsville (with no contribution from Deep Creek Station) is equivalent to a flow of 100 cfs at Oakland.]

If both Oakland and Friendsville gage data are unavailable, the Water Temperature Enhancement Protocol (or Contingency Protocol) will be implemented.

## TEMPERATURE RELEASES

Releases to enhance river water temperature ("temperature releases") will be made in accordance with the Water Temperature Enhancement Protocol (or Contingency Protocol), below. Temperature releases will be made by operating both units at maximum capacity.

## SCHEDULED RELEASES

A scheduled release commencing no later than 1100 hours and continuing to at least 1300 hours will negate the need to implement the Water Temperature Enhancement Protocol (or Contingency Protocol).

## WATER TEMPERATURE ENHANCEMENT PROTOCOL

On each day that this protocol is implemented, the daily forecasted maximum air temperature and cloud cover for Elkins, West Virginia will be obtained at approximately 0700 hours. At approximately 0700, 0900, 1100, 1200, 1400, and 1500 hours, the river water temperature at Sang Run will be read and a prediction of the daily maximum water temperature will be made based on whether the flow at

Oakland is less than or equal to, or greater than 30 cfs, using the equations presented below (see Youghiogheny River Temperature Enhancement Protocol Revision 1, Versar Inc., March 1995 and Versar memorandum to Penelec dated May 4, 1995 for supporting information). If a temperature release is determined to be necessary, no additional predictions will be required that day. If the water temperature monitoring instrument is inoperative, the Contingency Protocol (below) will be implemented.

Time Q(cfs) Equations To Predict Maximum River Water Temperature

0700	$\leq 30^1$	$TMAX = 10.93 + 0.322*TAIR - 0.019*CCF + 0.338*T_7$
	$> 30$	Subtract $0.04*(Q-30)$ from above equation
0900	$\leq 30^1$	$TMAX = 10.20 + 0.284*TAIR - 0.021*CCF + 1.208*T_9 - 0.779*T_7$
	$> 30$	Subtract $0.04*(Q-30)$ from above equation
1100	all	$TMAX = 6.20 + 0.247*TAIR - 0.010*CCF + 1.393*T_{11} - 0.828*T_9$
1200	all	$TMAX = 5.56 + 0.214*TAIR - 0.008*CCF + 1.059*T_{12} - 0.448*T_9$
1400	all	$TMAX = 3.56 + 0.103*TAIR + 1.356*T_{14} - 0.600*T_{12}$
1500	all	$TMAX = 3.08 + 0.049*TAIR + 1.140*T_{15} - 0.312*T_{12}$

where Q is the Youghiogheny River flow at Oakland,  
 TMAX is the predicted daily maximum river water temperature in °C at Sang Run rounded to the nearest 0.1°C,  
 TAIR is the 0700 daily maximum air temperature forecast in °C at Elkins,  
 CCF is the cloud cover factor obtained from the table below based on the 0700 hour daily cloud cover forecast at Elkins, and  
 T<sub>7</sub>, T<sub>9</sub>, T<sub>11</sub>, T<sub>12</sub>, T<sub>14</sub>, and T<sub>15</sub> are the 0700, 0900, 1100, 1200, 1400, and 1500 hour river water temperature readings at Sang Run in °C, respectively.

CCF will be selected from the following table. [CCF is determined by squaring the equivalent numeric value of the descriptive cloud cover based on the National Weather Service (NWS) convention. CCF is based on the NWS upper limit numeric values for cloud cover. Use of the upper limit will minimize the number of unnecessary releases.]

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<sup>1</sup> If both Oakland and Friendsville gage data are unavailable, assume  $Q \leq 30$  cfs.

Cloud Cover Forecast (Elkins, WV)Cloud Cover Factor (CCF)

Overcast or cloudy	100
Variable cloudiness	100
Mostly cloudy or considerable cloudiness	64
Partly cloudy or partly sunny	36
Fair	16
Mostly clear or mostly sunny	9
Clear or sunny	1

If TMAX predicted at 0700 hours is less than or equal to 23.0°C, no further water temperature predictions that day are necessary and no temperature releases will be scheduled or made.

If TMAX predicted at 0700 hours exceeds 23.0°C and is less than or equal to 26.4°C, TMAX will be predicted at 0900 hours, and again at 1100, 1200, 1400 and 1500 hours unless an earlier prediction determines that a temperature release is necessary.

If TMAX predicted at the times shown in the following table exceeds the respective threshold temperatures, or if the actual temperature reading exceeds 25.0°C, a release will be scheduled as shown in the table and announced on the recording as stated below.

<u>Time</u>	<u>Threshold Temperature</u>	<u>Begin Release</u>	<u>Duration of Release</u>	<u>Announcement on Recording</u>
0700	26.4°C	1100 hours	2 hours	yes
0900	25.9°C	1100 hours	2 hours	yes
1100	25.4°C	1230 hours	2 hours	yes
1200	25.3°C	ASAP <sup>2</sup> - not later than 1230 hours	1 hour	no
1400	25.2°C	ASAP <sup>2</sup> - not later than 1430 hours	1 hour	no
1500	25.1°C	ASAP <sup>2</sup> - not later than 1530 hours	1 hour	no

Because of the lack of advance notice to whitewater boaters and the short (one-hour) duration, temperature releases from the 1200, 1400 or 1500 hour measurements or predictions would not be usable by the boaters. Therefore, no recording will be made of these releases. [The earliest time that recorded water temperatures have exceeded 25.0°C is 1240 hours.]

<sup>2</sup> ASAP - As soon as possible

## CONTINGENCY PROTOCOL

If the water temperature monitoring instrument at Sang Run is inoperative at 0700 hours, TMAX will be calculated according to the following equation:

$$Q \leq 30 \text{ cfs} \quad TMAX = 14.43 + 0.356 * TAIR - 0.017 * CCF + 0.109 * TMIN$$
$$Q > 30 \text{ cfs} \quad \text{Subtract } 0.04 * (Q - 30) \text{ from above equation}$$

where Q, TMAX, and TAIR are defined above, CCF is the cloud cover factor for the 0700 daily cloud cover forecast at Elkins using the values from the above table, and TMIN is the minimum (overnight low) air temperature in °C at Elkins. If TMAX exceeds 25.0°C, a temperature release from 1100 to 1300 hours will be scheduled and announced on the recording.

If the water temperature monitoring instrument at Sang Run becomes inoperative after 0700 hours, TMAX from the most recent prediction will be used as the basis for scheduling releases; if the most recent TMAX exceeds 25.0°C, a temperature release will be scheduled and announced on the recording as described in the Water Temperature Enhancement Protocol.

## REPORTING OF WATER TEMPERATURES

All daily maximum water temperatures at Sang Run exceeding 25.0°C, along with the time of occurrence, will be reported to the MDNR within 30 days of the occurrence. All daily maximum water temperatures for the June through August period will be submitted to the MDNR in an annual report. The report will contain the dates and times of temperature releases, the daily maximum air temperature and cloud cover forecasts obtained in the implementation of the Water Temperature Enhancement Protocol, the predicted daily maximum river water temperature at Sang Run (TMAX), and the actual river water temperature at Sang Run at the time TMAX is predicted.

## REVISION OF PLAN

Penelec will annually review the results of this plan with the MDNR and, in consultation with the MDNR, refine or revise this plan with the objective of keeping water temperatures at Sang Run from exceeding 25.0°C.