

# Bottom Ash Transport Water Best Management Practice Plan

MERRIMACK STATION  
*Bow, New Hampshire*

Prepared for GSP Merrimack LLC

File No. 2025.14

October 2023

Administrative update

January 2024

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**INITIAL CERTIFICATION**

**Management Certification**

GSP Merrimack LLC (GSP) is committed to working towards reducing bottom ash transport water (BATW) discharges from the Merrimack Station facility and will provide the manpower, equipment, and materials necessary to implement this BATW Best Management Practices (BMP) Plan. The undersigned authorized facility representative attests that:

- a) I have personally examined and am familiar with the included BATW BMP Plan;
- b) I believe that the information in the BATW BMP Plan and any supporting documentation used in the development of this plan is true, accurate, and complete; and
- c) The BATW BMP Plan, to the best of my knowledge and belief, meets the requirements of 40 CFR 423.

ELIZABETH H. TILLOTSON      Elizabeth H. Tillotson      October 31, 2023  
 Printed Name of Facility Representative      Signature      Date

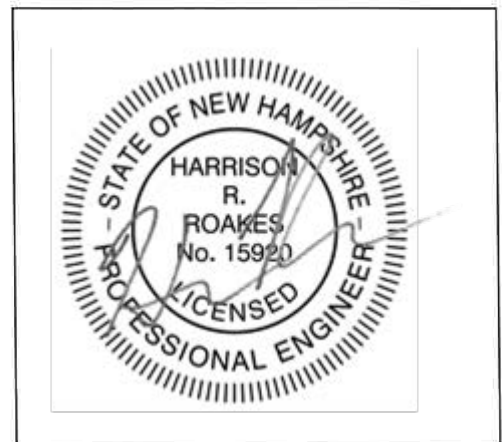
**Professional Engineer Certification**

The BATW BMP Plan was prepared by Sanborn, Head & Associates, Inc. for the Merrimack Station facility located in Bow, New Hampshire. I, the undersigned Registered Professional Engineer, certify the following information in respect to the Merrimack Station BATW BMP Plan), subject to the assumptions and limitations contained within the BATW BMP Plan.

- a) I am a licensed professional engineer in the State of New Hampshire.
- b) I am familiar with the 40 CFR Part 423(k)(3) requirements for the BATW BMP Plan.
- c) I am familiar with the Merrimack Station BATW system;
- d) The BATW BMP Plan is included with this certification statement; and
- e) The BATW BMP Plan, to the best of my knowledge and belief, will be implemented by GSP if the MK1 Boiler and MK2 Boiler units are designated low utilization electric generating units (LUEGUs).

Harrison R. Roakes  
 Printed Name of Licensed Professional Engineer

[Signature]  
 Signature



15920      New Hampshire      October 31, 2023  
 License Number      Licensing State      Date

## INTRODUCTION

This Bottom Ash Transport Water (BATW) System Best Management Practices (BMP) Plan is prepared to meet the requirements of the Final Steam Electric Reconsideration Rule 40 CFR Part 423.13(k)(3). Sanborn, Head & Associates, Inc. (Sanborn Head) prepared this BATW BMP Plan for GSP Merrimack LLC (GSP). This BATW BMP and the services provided by Sanborn Head are subject to the Limitations provided in Appendix A.

This BATW BMP Plan is intended to be a working document. Therefore, certain aspects of the BATW BMP Plan require continued review, and action must be documented in support of the annual certification process. Key aspects of the BATW BMP Plan that GSP is responsible for implementing are highlighted below.

- Note and address any needed editorial updates to the BATW BMP Plan.
- Routinely (at least annually) review the feasibility of implementing new BMPs to include in this plan that have the potential to reduce BATW discharges at the facility.
- Investigate options to minimize slag sluice operations to reduce the volume of BATW discharges, such as optimizing intermittent operations to reduce sluice flows.
- Maintain records to document BATW flows.
- Maintain records to document the average amount of recycled BATW.
- Complete regular BATW maintenance and inspections, including preparation of inspection reports and summaries of preventative and corrective maintenance performed.

### 1.0 GENERATING UNIT IDENTIFICATION

The coal-fired generating units that contribute bottom ash (BA) to the BATW system are identified as MK1 Boiler and MK2 Boiler. The designation of these units as low utilization (as defined in 40 CFR 423.11) is currently under review by USEPA Region 1. This BMP Plan is prepared to meet the requirements for a BATW BMP Plan for the MK1 Boiler and MK2 Boiler units assuming EPA agrees to designate the units as low utilization electric generating units (LUEGUs).

### 2.0 SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

A water flow diagram that includes the BATW system is included as Appendix B.

The existing BA transfer system consists of a wet slag tank for collection of BA at the boiler with wet sluice of BA to the slag settling area. Water from the Merrimack MK1 cooling water tunnel and Merrimack MK2 cooling water tunnel are used for the BATW that transports BA from the MK1 Boiler and MK2 Boiler slag tanks, respectively. Bottom ash and water are drawn from the MK1 Boiler and MK2 Boiler slag tanks using jet pumps and travel by sluice to the slag settling area. Slag is collected and stored for beneficial reuse and water from the slag settling area travels to the service water pond. MK1 Boiler and MK2 Boiler slag tank seal water (aka overflow water), which is generated during normal operations to maintain the slag tanks at full level, is sent to the service water pond without passing through the slag sluice settling area. This seal water (overflow water) does not transport or sluice bottom ash (slag).



Some water from the service water pond is pumped at the service water pump house to be recycled for use in the flue gas desulfurization (FGD) absorber. Most of the water drawn for the FGD absorber is removed from the system via evaporation (steam) while much smaller amounts are removed as a component of the gypsum produced, and the remainder is handled as blowdown in the wastewater treatment facilities.

In addition to the flows mentioned above, the service water pond also receives storm drain and yard drain water, boiler blowdown, returned service water, and water from Waste Treatment Plant #1 (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System [NPDES] Permit NH0001465).

The service water pond discharges via NPDES Permit NH0001465 Internal Outfall 003A to the cooling canal, (designated Waste Treatment Plant #2), for eventual discharge to the Merrimack River via Outfall 003.

### 3.0 WATER BALANCE

A diagram of the water balance is included as Appendix B, and tabulated values are provided below in Exhibit 1.

**Exhibit 1 - Summary of BATW System Additions and Removals**

Type	BATW System Component	Normal Station On-Line Operation Flow
Water removed from the BA transport system	Outfall: Outfall 003A to Waste Treatment Plant #2	5,330,000 GPD
	Service Water Pump House (primarily for FGD absorber use)	1,100,000 GPD
	Evaporation from the BATW system (e.g., from service water pond)	Not quantified
	Entrained with removed bottom ash	Not quantified
Water entering or recycled to the BA transport system. There is no BATW recycled back to the system in lieu of makeup water.	MK1 Cooling Water Tunnel	2,000,000 GPD (intermittent)
	MK2 Cooling Water Tunnel	4,230,000 GPD
	Service water pump house return	100,000 GPD
	Boiler Blowdown + Seal Water (Overflows) & Storm Drains	11,000 GPD (intermittent)
	Waste Treatment Plant (#1)	81,515 GPD
	Yard Drains	5,000 GPD (intermittent)

Note: As indicated above, some of the values represent typically intermittent flows. There is a non-zero balance of water removed and water added because of the intermittent flows.

### 4.0 MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION

A regular maintenance and inspection preventative maintenance management system is used to identify, repair, and replace equipment prior to failures. Preventative maintenance work orders are issued for timely upkeep of critical equipment and components.

The Operations Department does a walk-through every shift (twice per day) to inspect the entire BATW system, including valves, pipe flanges and piping, to identify leaks, spills and other unintended bottom ash transport water escaping from the system. If needed, timely repairs are arranged.



Copies of inspection reports and documentation of preventative and corrective maintenance performed are maintained by GSP personnel and are required to be included as part of the annual certification of this BATW BMP Plan.

## **5.0 EVALUATION OF BATW ELIMINATION/MINIMIZATION**

GSP completed an evaluation of costs and feasibility of full recycling of BATW to eliminate or minimize discharges. The evaluation recommendations were to install a remotely-located submerged flight conveyor (SPF) and associated infrastructure with an estimated cost of roughly \$7,000,000 (2021 dollars). Given the significant changes to Merrimack Station's operational profile in recent years (substantially reduced operations and thus BATW discharges), the installation of SPF technology was no longer economically viable and GSP Merrimack is re-evaluating options with EPA Region 1 for complying with the no-discharge BATW permit limitation, including classification as LUEGUs.

## **6.0 RECYCLE SYSTEM AND DISCHARGE MINIMIZATION**

The following elements are included in the current BATW system for recycling and minimizing BATW discharge.

- BATW is recycled for use in the FDG scrubber.
- Investigate options to minimize slag sluice operations to reduce the volume of BATW discharges, such as optimizing intermittent operations to reduce sluice flows. The MK1 Boiler BATW sluice for emptying the slag tank is operated intermittently at a typically consistent flow, and minimizing the time that they are operating minimizes the BATW discharge.

Recycling BATW through the FDG scrubber reduces BATW discharges from the facility by over 1,000,000 GPD. Reductions in BATW discharges achieved by the other BMPs listed in this plan have not been quantified.

## **7.0 SCHEDULE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

No changes to the existing BATW system are planned. The BMPs outlined in this plan represent the BATW discharge control measures that GSP determined are technically available and economically achievable for the Merrimack Station facility at this time. The need to reevaluate options and feasibility for BATW elimination or minimization should be considered at least annually, and a new evaluation should be completed if operating conditions are changed or if additional information or technologies become available.

## **8.0 RECYCLE SYSTEM DOCUMENTATION**

A regular maintenance and inspection preventative maintenance management system for the FGD system is used to identify, repair, and replace equipment prior to failures. Preventative maintenance work orders are issued for timely upkeep of critical equipment and components.

The Operations Department does a walk-through every shift (twice per day) to inspect the entire FGD system. If needed, timely repairs are arranged.

Copies of inspection reports and documentation of preventative and corrective maintenance performed are maintained by GSP personnel and will be included as part of the annual certification of this BATW BMP Plan.

## 9.0 FLOW MONITORING

Measurements associated with the flow monitoring are to be recorded on at least a weekly basis and kept in the BATW system maintenance and operation file.

**Exhibit 1 - Summary of BATW System Additions and Removals**

BATW System Component	Weekly Monitoring Method	During Normal Station On-line Operation	
		Flow Type	Typical Flow
MK1 water added to the BATW system, including the BATW slag sluice	Record start and stop times of water being added from the MK1 cooling water tunnel to the MK1 sluice system. Sum the total run time of the MK1 sluice water addition and multiple by the typical operational flow rate to obtain the weekly flow volume.	Intermittent	2,000,000 GPD
MK2 water added to the BATW system, including the BATW slag sluice	Record start and stop times of water being added from the MK2 cooling water tunnel to the MK2 sluice system. Sum the total run time of the MK2 sluice water addition and multiple by the typical operational flow rate to obtain the weekly flow volume.	Continuous	4,230,000 GPD
Total BATW discharged	Continuous flow monitoring data are collected at Internal Outfall 003A.	Continuous	5,330,000 GPD
BATW recycled to the FGD absorber	Operational or flow data will be collected to establish flows at the FGD absorber.	Continuous	1,100,000 GPD

Note: As indicated above, some of the values represent typically intermittent flows. There is a non-zero balance of water removed and water added because of the intermittent flows.

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# Appendix A Limitations



## **ATTACHMENT B**

### **LIMITATIONS**

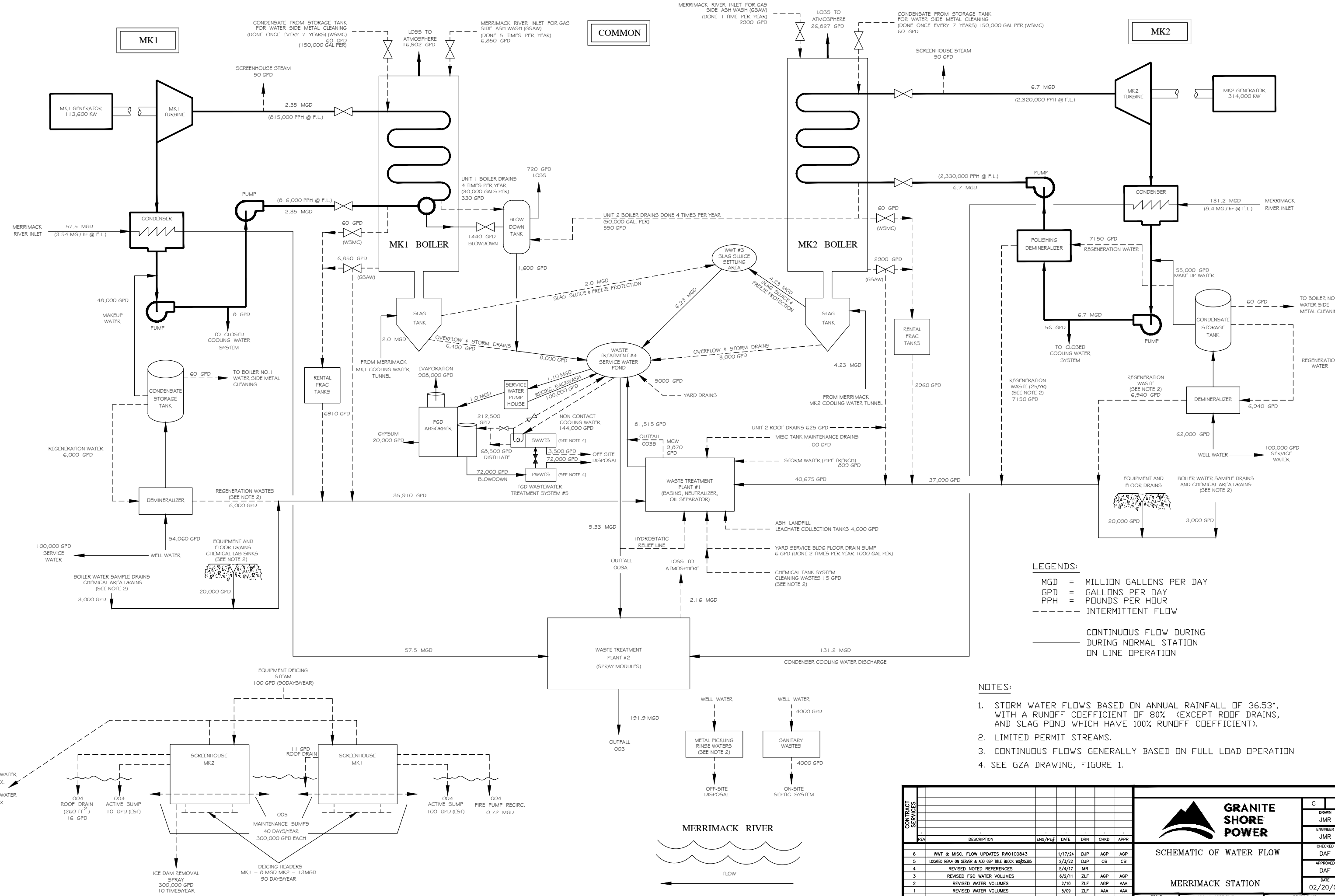
1. The observations described in this report were made under the conditions stated herein. The conclusions presented in this report were based solely upon the services described herein, and not on scientific tasks or procedures beyond the scope of described services or the time and budgetary constraints imposed by the Client.
2. In preparing this report, Sanborn Head has relied on certain information provided by other parties referenced herein. Detailed evaluations of this information to verify its validity was not conducted.
3. Should additional information on relevant conditions at the site which is not contained in the report be obtained, such information should be brought to Sanborn Head's attention. We will evaluate such information and, on the basis of our evaluation, may modify the conclusions stated in this report.
4. This report was prepared for the exclusive use of GSP Merrimack LLC (GSP) for specific application for 40 CFR Part 423(k)(3) compliance for GSP's Merrimack Station bottom ash transport water system for MK1 Boiler and MK2 Boiler electric generating units in Bow, New Hampshire, and was prepared in accordance with generally-accepted environmental engineering practices. No warranty, express or implied, is made.

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# **Appendix B**

## **Schematic of Water Flow**

1/18/2024, 12:04 PM - David Parent - C:\Users\David.Parent\OneDrive - Granite Shore Power\Desktop\TEMP\MK-M-1235.dwg - AS-BUILT  
 GSP VER: 03/19



**LEGENDS:**

MGD = MILLION GALLONS PER DAY  
 GPD = GALLONS PER DAY  
 PPH = POUNDS PER HOUR  
 --- INTERMITTENT FLOW  
 ——— CONTINUOUS FLOW DURING NORMAL STATION ON LINE OPERATION

- NOTES:**
- STORM WATER FLOWS BASED ON ANNUAL RAINFALL OF 36.53", WITH A RUNOFF COEFFICIENT OF 80% (EXCEPT ROOF DRAINS, AND SLAG POND WHICH HAVE 100% RUNOFF COEFFICIENT).
  - LIMITED PERMIT STREAMS.
  - CONTINUOUS FLOWS GENERALLY BASED ON FULL LOAD OPERATION
  - SEE GZA DRAWING, FIGURE 1.

REV	DESCRIPTION	ENG/PEJ	DATE	DRN	CHKD	APPR
6	WWT & MISC. FLOW UPDATES RW0100843		1/17/24	DJP	AGP	AGP
5	LOCATED REV4 ON SERVER & ADD GSP TITLE BLOCK W02335		2/3/22	DJP	CB	CB
4	REVISED NOTED REFERENCES		5/4/17	MR		
3	REVISED FGD WATER VOLUMES		6/2/11	ZLF	AGP	AGP
2	REVISED WATER VOLUMES		2/10	ZLF	AGP	AAA
1	REVISED WATER VOLUMES		5/09	ZLF	AAA	AAA
0	REMOVED WET LANDS & UPDATED YARD DRAINS		12/05	JMR	AAA	AAA

G 6

DRAWN: JMR  
 ENGINEER: JMR  
 CHECKED: DAF  
 APPROVED: DAF  
 DATE: 02/20/03

**GRANITE SHORE POWER**

SCHMATIC OF WATER FLOW

MERRIMACK STATION

SCALE: NONE  
 FILE: MK-M-1235.DWG  
 DRAWING NO.: MK-M-1235