

Air and Visual Pollution Reduced--Thermal Pollution Studied

# Public Service Co. of N.H. Seeks

## to Protect Environment

By JACK McDOWELL

The relationship between electric power facilities and the environment is a matter of serious concern to Public Service Co. of N. H.

Electricity will be needed in ever increasing amounts in New Hampshire during the 70's. New Hampshire homes, stores, and industries are demanding more and more electricity every year. The result of this demand is, it has been projected, that Public Service will have to provide twice as much electric power just eight years from now as the company is providing today. This means building new generating stations, more elec-

tric lines, additional substations and other electrical facilities.

This growth presents a challenge to Public Service to construct the required electric facilities and, at the same time, maintain a proper balance between economic and reliable electric service and the effort of the facilities on the environment.

### Actions Not New

Environmental concern and action is not new at Public Service.

As many as 30 years ago, Public Service was installing air pollution control devices at generating stations. To date, Public Service has

spent \$1.5 million on this equipment. This year, another \$500,000 will be spent on additional precipitators at the Merrimack Generating Station in Bow. These precipitators will remove substantially all the fly ash from the stack effluents.

Another concern of the company is finding what effect the warm water that is being discharged into rivers from generating plant condensers will have on fish and other aquatic matter.

Since 1967, Public Service, in conjunction with the State Water Supply and Pollution Control Commission and the N.H. Fish and Game Dept., has

studied the thermal effects on the Merrimack River of the Merrimack Station in Bow.

Results are being analyzed and Public Service will take all the necessary precautions to minimize any adverse effects. The company will meet it's responsibility to satisfy all water quality standards and regulations set by the N.H. Water Supply and Pollution Control Commission.

As Public Service plans for the future needs for more generating facilities, it is taking into consideration all environmental factors.

Considers Aesthetics  
In the overall operation of an

McDowell  
Page 3  
A

White Mountain National Forest  
Supervisor's Office, R-9  
Manchester, N. H. Union Leader  
June 26, 1970

Page

electric company, another environmental consideration must be given attention and that is aesthetics.

A primary example of Public Service's commitment to improving the appearance of its facilities is the company's new policy regarding the undergrounding of distribution electric lines. This policy should encourage more underground distribution throughout the company's service areas because, in many cases, it provides for equal sharing of the extra costs of undergrounding between the company and the developer or customer.

technical and economic barriers which must be overcome before transmission lines can be placed underground for long distances.

Public Service's present policies for the construction of transmission lines call for wooden H-frame construction or steel structures designed to be as attractive as possible. In addition, where transmission lines cross roads and highways, a barrier of trees within the right-of-way is left for a depth of 50 feet. This concept, often referred to as screening, makes the right-of-way less noticeable often to the passing motorist. At present, there are many

working to improve the appearance of all of its facilities. Proper landscaping is used to enhance the appearance of buildings and substations and new "low profile" construction is being used in many cases when new substations are built.

These are only a few examples of Public Service's strides toward protecting the environment in New Hampshire. There is a lot more to do, and Public Service's management has pledged to conduct its operation so as to protect and enhance the quality of New Hampshire's environment to the maximum extent possible. Public Service is continually