

October 9, 2008

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Dave Kellam

Phone: 603-862-3403

Email: Dave.Kellam@unh.edu

New Hampshire Estuaries Project Receives Contribution from Seabrook Station

SEABROOK - FPL Energy Seabrook Station donated \$12,000 to the New Hampshire Estuaries Project (NHEP) to support the program's activities in 2009 that protect, enhance, and monitor the environmental quality of the state's estuaries. This is the tenth year that Seabrook Station, located adjacent to the Hampton-Seabrook Estuary, has provided financial support to the NHEP.

The NHEP supports environmental stewardship and community land use planning activities in the Great Bay and Hampton-Seabrook estuaries, which encompass 52 communities in Maine and New Hampshire.

NHEP Director Jennifer Hunter says that the power company's contribution will be put to good use. "Currently, we are examining habitat restoration opportunities in the Hampton-Seabrook Estuary. There are salt marshes and freshwater wetlands in the area that have been degraded by development over the years. Focused effort to improve the ecological function of these areas will go a long way to improving overall water quality of the estuary." The NHEP intends to use the company's contribution to leverage additional federal funds in support of local habitat restoration projects.

Previous donations from Seabrook Station have contributed to on-the-ground projects to enhance shellfish populations in Hampton-Seabrook Harbor and improve opportunities for shellfish harvesting. The facility has also contributed valuable environmental data on local environmental conditions. "For many years, Seabrook Station has been monitoring the estuary's environmental health and has shared this environmental monitoring data with the New Hampshire Estuaries Project to help create environmental indicator reports and our State of the Estuaries Report that is published every three years," adds Hunter.

The New Hampshire Estuaries Project is a program based at the University of New Hampshire. The collaborative program is primarily funded by a grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency and involves governmental agencies, university researchers, non-profit organizations, businesses, and the public. The NHEP Management Plan, project reports, and other resources are available at www.nhep.unh.edu.



Al Legendre, Principal Engineer at Seabrook Station, presents a check for \$12,000 to New Hampshire Estuaries Project Director Jennifer Hunter.