Power Station Pollution Hazard Stays Status Quo

English Station Sale Sparks Fresh Debate
By Rachel Bergman

The station has been tied up under pending litigation ever since, the plant remains closed and is deemed a continual pollution hazard, particularly after an incident last year in which the Coast Guard was called in to clean up oil leaking from the station into the river. Access to the property has previously been limited pending submission of a remediation plan to clean up extensive contamination by polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), heavy metals, and other contaminants.

Jeffrey Gaudion, PURA’s executive secretary, provided a written response to the City explaining that the agency “finds that it does not have the subject matter jurisdiction or the expertise to review and determine or enforce the City’s environmental claims that UIL or its affiliates are liable for environmental contamination and remediation.”

"Moreover, the Authority does not have staff with environmental contamination issues expertise to review such issues. The Authority finds that certain bureaus within the Department of Energy and the federal Environmental Protection Agency or the state or federal courts are more appropriate venues for resolution of the City’s environmental claims,” Gaudion said in his written response. "

The City of New Haven is not sure it will be able to appeal this decision and will rely on State and Federal agencies to enforce a clean-up.

Connecticut: 'Help Wanted' Wanted

Connecticut Recovery Slower Than National Average

Connecticut added 4,000 jobs in March — good news after February’s loss of 2,900 jobs. Unemployment remains fairly steady at 0.8 percent, higher than the national average of 5.5 percent. That represents approximately 121,900 unemployed Connecticut residents according to the U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee’s state-by-state economic snapshots.

The Committee’s snapshots look at key data like private-sector job growth, unemployment, State gross domestic product, home prices, and other factors.

In Connecticut, the sectors with the greatest job growth since the 2001 end of the recession are: leisure and hospitality at 19.7 percent (25,700 jobs), professional and business services at 15.8 percent (29,600 jobs) and construction at 11.9 percent (5,800 jobs). March’s increased job numbers were led by trade, transportation & utilities (1,500, 0.5 percent) and retail trade (1,300, 0.7 percent). Manufacturing and Information, two of Connecticut’s 10 job “super-sectors,” have been in continual decline over the year. Manufacturing is down 4.8 percent and Information is down 3.2 percent.

Over the last 12 months, Connecticut has added more than 27,000 jobs, but has only recovered 77.9 percent of jobs lost during the recession.

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