

## **MDNR Company-Specific Contemporary Issues For Empire**

### **Issue 1: Coal Plant Retirements**

Analyze, rank and document existing coal plant fleet as retirement candidates. This is an important contemporary issue in light of environmental regulation, rising coal prices and maintenance costs. How does the recent court decision regarding the implementation of Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) impact Empire's planning for generation retirement?

### **Issue 2: DSM, Combined Heat and Power (CHP) and Distributed Generation (DG)**

Analyze and document the impacts of opportunities to implement distributed generation, DSM programs and CHP projects in collaboration with municipal water treatment plants and other local waste or agricultural/industrial processes with on-site electrical and thermal load requirements, especially in targeted areas where there may be transmission or distribution line constraints.

### **Issue 3: Customer Information/Behavior Modification DSM Programs**

Analyze and document alternative customer information/behavior modification program options to increase customer awareness and encourage more efficient use of energy.