

## **Reliant Resources 1816 MW Astoria Repowering Project Queens, New York**

ESS Group, Inc. provided full environmental services for the siting and licensing of a 1,816 MW merchant power plant in Astoria, New York.

The repowering involves replacing the old dual fuel boilers with six new combined cycle gas turbines and utilization of existing steam turbines. Once finished, cooling for the facility will be changed to plume abated cooling tower technology. The cooling towers for the facility will use desalinated water produced on-site to eliminate concerns regarding cooling tower salt deposition on surrounding properties. The reverse osmosis desalination system is capable of producing 11 million gallons/day of product water.

ESS staff assisted in engineering the site layout, and performed technical assessments for wetlands, water and biological resources, air quality, noise, cultural, and visual effects.

The Article X Application was submitted to the New York State Department of Public Service in October 2001. The project completed the interrogatory/discovery phase of the process and received (January 2002) completeness determinations for Article X, air (PSD/NSR), and water (SPDES) applications.

Settlement agreements were reached with all parties in early 2003 and the evidentiary hearing was held in March. The Siting Board's opinion and order granting the certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need was issued in June 2003.



### **Relevant Services Include:**

- Assisted in Engineering Site Layout
- Provided Technical Assessments
- Provided Expert Testimony
- Submitted Article X Application October 2001
- Reached Settlement Agreements and Completed Hearing Second Quarter 2003
- Issued Draft PSD and SPDES Permits
- Issued Article X Certificate June 2003