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POWER PLANT ASSESSMENT DIVISION

Tawes State Office Building, B-3  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-2397

9/24/01

66 FR 48892

November 26, 2001

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Chief, Rules and Directives Branch  
Division of Administrative Services  
Office of Administration  
Mailstop T-6 D 59  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: Scope of Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station, Units 2 and 3 License Renewal

Dear Sir:

This letter responds to your solicitation for comments regarding significant issues pertinent to the Commission's development of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the License Renewal of Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station.

We have received a copy of Exelon's License Renewal application and have reviewed it. With regard to environmental issues we believe should be addressed in the NRC's SEIS, we offer the following.

For more than three decades, there has been an extensive cooperative utility, multi-state and multi-agency effort to restore historic populations of anadromous finfish, particularly American Shad to the Susquehanna River basin. These collective efforts are succeeding in large part due to the multi-million dollar expenditures by owners of hydroelectric facilities on the lower Susquehanna to construct and operate fish passage facilities at their respective projects.

There are four major hydroelectric projects on the Susquehanna. Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station (PBAPS) is located on the impoundment (Conowingo Pond) created by construction of the dam for the most downriver project, the Conowingo Hydroelectric Station. Since 1997,

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Att = D. Wheeler (dxw)

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November 26, 2001  
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operation of a multimillion dollar fish lift at Conowingo has allowed migratory fishes ascending the Susquehanna from the Atlantic Ocean and Chesapeake Bay to be passed directly into Conowingo Pond to continue their upriver migration. The success of our collective efforts to restore American shad and other migratory fishes to the Susquehanna relies heavily upon assuring that in the spring, pre-spawned adults reach suitable spawning habitat upriver of the four hydroelectric projects, and that the progeny of spawning successfully leave the Susquehanna in the fall to continue their life cycle. Given its location, the intake and discharge of water from Conowingo Pond by PBAPS for condenser cooling may impact the successful upriver migration of prespawned adult fishes and downriver migration of juveniles.

While Exelon's application addresses this subject to a degree, and the PBAPS has an NPDES permit issued by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, we believe that additional information relevant to this issue is available and that some historical information also relevant has not been included in the Exelon application. We request that within the scope of the NRC's Environmental Assessment, as a Category 2 issue, the NRC conduct a thorough evaluation of the potential impact of license renewal for PBAPS on the restoration of migratory fishes to the Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay utilizing all relevant and current information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard I. McLean', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard I. McLean,  
Manager, Nuclear Programs

RIM:rd

cc: R. St. Pierre, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



**Maryland Department of Natural Resources**  
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