

August 30, 2002

Mr. William Koon, Chief  
Santee Indian Nation  
208 Foster Mill Circle  
Pauline, SC 29374

SUBJECT: U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION REVIEW OF THE  
H.B. ROBINSON STEAM ELECTRIC PLANT UNIT 2 LICENSE RENEWAL  
APPLICATION

Dear Mr. Koon:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is seeking input for its environmental review of an application from Carolina Power & Light Company (CP&L) to renew its operating license for Unit 2 of the H.B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant (Robinson), located approximately four miles northwest of Hartsville, South Carolina. As described below, the NRC process includes an opportunity for public participation in the environmental review. The NRC will hold public scoping meetings for the Robinson license renewal supplement to the NRC's "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Power Plants" (GEIS) (NUREG-1437). These scoping meetings will be held at Coker College in Davidson Hall, 300 East College Avenue, Hartsville, South Carolina, on Wednesday, September 25, 2002. There will be two sessions to accommodate interested parties. The first session will convene at 1:30 p.m. and will continue until 4:30 p.m., as necessary. The second session will convene at 7:00 p.m., with a repeat of the overview portions of the meeting, and will continue until 10:00 p.m., as necessary. Additionally, the NRC staff will host informal discussions one hour before the start of each session at Davidson Hall. No comments on the proposed scope of the supplement to the GEIS will be accepted during the informal discussions. To be considered, comments must be provided either at the transcribed public meetings or in writing. Robinson is in close proximity to lands that may be of interest to the Santee Indian Nation. We want to ensure that you are aware of our efforts and, pursuant to 10 CFR 51.28(b), the NRC invites the Santee Indian Nation to provide input to the scoping process relating to the NRC's environmental review of the application. The application and the environmental review process are described below.

Under NRC regulations, the original operating license for a nuclear power plant is issued for up to 40 years. The license may be renewed for up to an additional 20 years if NRC requirements are met. The current operating license for Robinson will expire in 2010. CP&L submitted an environmental report as part of its application for renewal of the Robinson operating license on June 17, 2002. The application is electronically available for inspection from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>, which provides access through the NRC's Public Electronic Reading Room (PERR) link. If you do not have access to ADAMS or if there are problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) Reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to [pdr@nrc.gov](mailto:pdr@nrc.gov). In addition, the application can be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/robinson.html>.

A paper copy of the document can be viewed at the NRC's PDR, located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland, and at the Hartsville Memorial Library, located at 147 West College Avenue, Hartsville, South Carolina. Also, the GEIS assesses the scope and impact of environmental effects that would be associated with license renewal at any nuclear power plant site. A copy of this document can also be found on the NRC's website or at the NRC's PDR.

The NRC is gathering information for the document that will be a Robinson-specific supplement to the GEIS. The supplement will contain the results of the review of the environmental impacts on the area surrounding the Robinson site that are related to terrestrial ecology, aquatic ecology, hydrology, cultural resources, and socioeconomic issues (among others) and will contain a recommendation regarding the environmental acceptability of the license renewal action.

Please submit any written comments the Santee Indian Nation may have to offer on the scope of the environmental review by October 25, 2002. Comments should be submitted either by mail to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Mail Stop T-6 D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001, or by Internet at RobinsonEIS@nrc.gov.

At the conclusion of the scoping process, the NRC staff will prepare a summary of the significant issues identified and the conclusions reached and will send a copy to you.

The NRC will prepare a draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for public comment and will hold another set of public meetings in the site vicinity to solicit comments on the draft. A copy of the draft SEIS will be sent to you for your review and comment. After consideration of public comments received on the draft, the NRC will prepare a final SEIS. The issuance of a final environmental statement for Robinson is planned for January 2004. If you need additional information regarding the environmental review process, please contact Richard Emch, Senior Project Manager, at (301) 415-1590.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Pao-Tsin Kuo, Program Director  
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program  
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-261

cc: See next page

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\*See previous concurrence

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