

March 12, 2003

Mr. Rick Nelson
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
4469 48th Avenue Court
Rock Island, IL 61201

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR COMMENTS CONCERNING QUAD CITIES NUCLEAR
POWER STATION APPLICATION FOR OPERATING LICENSE RENEWAL**

Dear Mr. Nelson:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is reviewing an application for the renewal of the operating license for the Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station (QCNPS), located on the east bank of Pool 14 of the Mississippi River. As part of the review of the license renewal application, the NRC is preparing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) under the provision of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) which includes analyses of pertinent environmental issues, including endangered or threatened species and impacts to fish and wildlife. This letter is being submitted under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

The proposed action would include use and continued maintenance of existing facilities and transmission lines and would not result in any new construction or disturbance. The Quad Cities Station is located in Rock Island County, Illinois. In total, for the specific purpose of connecting QCNPS to the regional transmission system, there are approximately 53 miles of corridor that occupy around 1100 acres of land. The transmission lines traverse the counties of Rock Island and Whiteside Counties, Illinois, and Scott and Clinton Counties in Iowa. Starting at QCNPS, the Davenport line runs south of the plant, turns west crossing the Mississippi River for 12.8 miles with a 180 foot right-of-way, ending just north of Davenport, Iowa. The Barstow line runs 2 miles southeast of QCNPS, and has a 520 foot right-of-way that ends in Rock Island County. There are two Nelson lines. The first is approximately 2 miles long heading southeast with a 520 foot wide right-of-way ending in Rock Island County, and the other line with a corridor width of 145 feet, runs 33 miles east of QCNPS ending in Rock Falls, Illinois. The last line connecting QCNPS to the regional system is the Rock Creek line, that runs 5 miles north of the station with a 170 foot right-of-way, terminates in Comanche, Iowa. Three figures are enclosed which show counties that fall within a 50-mile radius of QCNPS, a site boundary map, and a transmission line map.

The plant uses once-through (open-cycle) cooling water system which draws from and discharges to the Mississippi River to remove waste heat from the facility. River water is drawn through a canal, that is perpendicular to river flow, into the plant. The heated water is discharged back to the Mississippi River through two 16-foot-diameter diffuser pipes into the deepest part of the river channel. The Mississippi River in the vicinity of the plant is considered part of the aquatic environment of interest.

R. Nelson

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To support the environmental impact statement preparation process and to ensure compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the NRC requests a list of species and information on protected, proposed, and candidate species and critical habitat that may be in the vicinity of the Quad Cities Station and its associated transmission lines. In addition, please provide any information you consider appropriate under the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

We plan to hold a public NEPA scoping meeting on April 8, 2003, at The Mark of the Quad Cities, 1201 River Drive, Moline, Illinois. You and your staff are invited to attend. Your office will receive a copy of the draft SEIS along with a request for comments. The anticipated publications date for the Draft SEIS is November 2003.

If you have any questions concerning QCNPS, the license renewal application, or other aspects of this project, please contact Mr. Louis Wheeler, Senior Project Manager, at (301) 415-1444 or by email at DXW@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

Docket Nos.: 50-254 and 50-265

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/encl.: See next page

R. Nelson

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To support the environmental impact statement preparation process and to ensure compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the NRC requests a list of species and information on protected, proposed, and candidate species and critical habitat that may be in the vicinity of the Quad Cities Station and its associated transmission lines. In addition, please provide any information you consider appropriate under the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. Should any critical habitat or Federally protected species be identified from the area of interest the NRC staff will prepare a biological assessment to determine if the licensee's actions "may affect" the protected resources. That biological assessment will be forwarded to your office.

We plan to hold a public NEPA scoping meeting on April 8, 2003, at The Mark of the Quad Cities, 1201 River Drive, Moline, Illinois. You and your staff are invited to attend. Your office will receive a copy of the draft SEIS along with a request for comments. The anticipated publication date for the draft SEIS is November 2003.

If you have any questions concerning the NRC staff review of the license renewal application please contact Mr. Louis Wheeler, Senior Project Manager, at (301) 415-1444 or by email at DXW@nrc.gov.

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

Docket Nos.: 50-254 and 50-265

Enclosures: As stated (3)

cc w/encl.: See next page

Accession Nos.:

1. Letter to R. Nelson w/Service List: **ML030730774**
2. Enclosures: Maps: **ML030760214**
 - Figure 2-1 (50-Mile Vicinity Map)
 - Figure 2-3 (Site Boundary)
 - Figure 3-2 (Transmission Line Map)
3. Pkg: **ML030730775**

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