

April 22, 2003

Roger L. Banks, Field Supervisor
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services
176 Croghan Spur Road
Suite 200
Charleston, SC 29407

SUBJECT: BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT FOR LICENSE RENEWAL AT H. B. ROBINSON
STEAM ELECTRIC PLANT, UNIT 2 (TAC NO. MB5226)

Dear Mr. Banks:

The NRC staff has prepared the enclosed biological assessment to evaluate whether the proposed renewal of the H. B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant, Unit 2, operating license for a period of an additional 20 years would have adverse effects on Federally listed species. This biological assessment covers the area of the H. B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant, located in Darlington County, South Carolina, approximately 4.5 miles west northwest of the city of Hartsville, South Carolina and the associated transmission line corridors (Sumter, Florence-South, and Rockingham and Florence-North). The plant is situated on the southwest shore of Lake Robinson, and encompasses approximately 4,800 acres, including the lake in Darlington and Chesterfield Counties.

There are seven threatened or endangered species and one candidate species with the potential to be affected, which are addressed within the attached biological assessment. The staff has determined that the proposed action is not a major construction activity and may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, the redcockaded woodpecker, Canby's dropwort, chaffseed, or the rough-leaved loosestrife; and will have no effect on the bald eagle, shortnose sturgeon, Atlantic sturgeon, or the Carolina heelsplitter. No designated critical habitat for any of these eight species is located near the Robinson plant site or the associated transmission line corridors. We are placing this biological assessment in our project files and requesting your concurrence with our determination for the species within your jurisdiction.

In reaching our conclusion, the NRC staff relied on the geographical information system data base information provided by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, the research performed by the NRC staff and contractors, and a current listing of species provided by your office and NOAA Fisheries.

R. Banks

2

If you have any questions regarding this biological assessment or the staff's request, please contact Mr. Richard Emch by telephone at (301) 415-1590 or by e-mail at rle@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 No.: 50-261

Enclosures: As stated

cc w/encls: See next page

R. Banks

2

If you have any questions regarding this biological assessment or the staff's request, please contact Mr. Richard Emch by telephone at (301) 415-1590 or by e-mail at rle@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 No.: 50-261

Enclosures: As stated

cc w/encls: See next page

DISTRIBUTION:

Environmental R/F

J. Tappert

Public

A. Williamson

P.T.Kuo

R. Emch

S. K. Mitra

C. Patel

Accession nos.:

1. Letter w/Svc. List: **ML031130250**
2. Encl. 1 - Biological Assessment, H.B. Robinson
Steam Electric Plant, Unit 2 (Nuclear) License Renewal
Review, Hartsville, SC: **ML031140030**
3. Pkg.: **ML031130272**

Document Name: C:\ORPCheckout\FileNET\ML031130250.wpd *See previous concurrence

OFFICE	Intern:RLEP	LA:RLEP	PM:RLEP	SC:RLEP	PD:RLEP
NAME	AWilliamson*	YEdmonds*	REmch*	JTappert*	PTKuo*
DATE	4/21/03	4/22/03	4/22/03	4/22/03	4/22/03

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

H. B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant
Unit No. 2
Carolina Power & Light Company
cc:

Mr. William D. Johnson
Vice President and Corporate Secretary
Carolina Power & Light Company
P.O. Box 1551
Raleigh, NC 27602

Ms. Karen E. Long
Assistant Attorney General
State of North Carolina
P.O. Box 629
Raleigh, NC 27602

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Resident Inspector's Office
H.B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant
2112 Old Camden Road
Hartsville, SC 29550

Mr. T. P. Cleary
Plant General Manager
Carolina Power & Light Company
H.B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant,
Unit No. 2
3581 West Entrance Road
Hartsville, SC 29550

Mr. Chris L. Burton
Director of Site Operations
Carolina Power & Light Company
H. B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant,
Unit No. 2
3581 West Entrance Road
Hartsville, SC 29550

Public Service Commission
Post Office Drawer 11649
State of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29211

Mr. C. T. Baucom
Supervisor, Licensing/Regulatory Programs
Carolina Power & Light Company
H.B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant,
Unit No. 2
3581 West Entrance Road

Hartsville, SC 29550
Ms. Beverly Hall, Acting Director
N.C. Department of Environment
and Natural Resources
Division of Radiation Protection
3825 Barrett Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27609-7721

Mr. Robert P. Gruber
Executive Director
Public Staff - NCUC
4326 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4326

Mr. Virgil R. Autry, Director
South Carolina Department of Health
Bureau of Land & Waste Management
Division of Radioactive Waste
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Mr. Terry C. Morton, Manager
Performance Evaluation and
Regulatory Affairs CPB 7
Carolina Power & Light Company
P.O. Box 1551
Raleigh, NC 27602-1551

Mr. John H. O'Neill, Jr.
Shaw, Pittman, Potts & Trowbridge
2300 N Street, NW.
Washington, DC 20037-1128

Mr. B. L. Fletcher III
Manager - Regulatory Affairs
Carolina Power & Light Company
H. B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant,
Unit No. 2
3581 West Entrance Road
Hartsville, SC 29550-0790

Mr. Alan P. Nelson
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, NW., Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3708

H. B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant
Unit No. 2
Carolina Power & Light Company
cc:

2

Talmage B. Clements
Manager - License Renewal
Carolina Power and Light Company
410 South Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27602

Mr. Roger A. Stewart
Carolina Power and Light Company
H.B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant,
Unit No. 2
3581 West Entrance Road
Hartsville, SC 29550

Ms. Rose Roseveare, Branch Manager
Hartsville Memorial Library
147 West College Avenue
Hartsville, SC 29550

Mr. John Moyer, Vice President
H.B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant
Carolina Power and Light Company
3581 West Entrance Road
Hartsville, SC 29550