

April 23, 2003

Dr. Kurt W. Carr, Chief
Division of Archaeology and Protection
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Bureau for Historic Preservation
Commonwealth Keystone Building, Second Floor
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093

SUBJECT: ER 00-3210-133-I FINAL SUPPLEMENT 10 TO THE GENERIC
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (NUREG-1437) REGARDING
LICENSE RENEWAL FOR THE PEACH BOTTOM ATOMIC POWER STATION,
UNITS 2 AND 3

Dear Dr. Carr:

This letter responds to your letter of February 13, 2003, regarding the environmental impact statement dealing with the renewal of the operating licenses for the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station, Units 2 and 3 (PBAPS).

PBAPS entered into operation in the early 1970s. Nuclear power plants are limited by the terms of their operating licenses to a period of no greater than 40 years. The Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, allows for the renewal of operating licenses, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) established a regulatory framework in Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 54, for that specific purpose. An applicant may seek to renew a license for a period of 20 years, and may submit its application for renewal no earlier than 20 years before the expiration of the current operating license. The NRC prepares a safety evaluation report and an environmental impact statement (EIS) to support its decision on a license renewal application.

As part of its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review, the NRC's EIS considers a range of alternatives to the proposed action of renewing a license, which includes a "No Action" alternative. In the absence of renewing a license, PBAPS would be required to enter into the decommissioning process no later than the expiration date of its operating license for each unit. The electric power capacity currently provided by PBAPS would be expected to be replaced by one or more other energy sources. In the NRC's EIS, we have addressed the reasonably foreseeable impacts associated with power production from a variety of energy sources to replace the capacity of PBAPS.

Regarding the concern identified in your letter, any alternative generating facility, which may very well be located somewhere other than the current PBAPS site, would be subject to all the appropriate licensing, permitting, and consultation processes of Federal, State, Tribal and local governmental agencies. If the new facility is to be a nuclear power plant, then it would be subject to the NRC permitting and licensing processes, and, even if it is proposed to be located at the current PBAPS site, then it must comply with regulatory requirements, including an

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alternative site analysis. The final EIS for the PBAPS license renewal is for the specific purpose of renewing the current licenses for PBAPS.

I hope this addresses your concerns regarding the scope and reach of the NRC's EIS for the PBAPS license renewal. If you have any further questions regarding this project, please contact me at 301 415-1183 or Mr. Duke Wheeler, the NRC's PBAPS Environmental Project Manager, at 301 415-1444.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

Docket Nos.: 50-277 and 50-278

cc: See next page

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Docket Nos.: 50-277 and 50-278

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*See previous concurrence

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