

July 1, 2003

Mr. Maynard Crossland
Director
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
Preservation Services Division
One Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, IL 62701

SUBJECT: DRESDEN NUCLEAR POWER STATION LICENSE RENEWAL REVIEW AND
(IHPA LOG NO. 0201160019WGR)

Dear Mr. Crossland:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing an application to renew the operating licenses for Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Units 2 and 3 (DNPS), which is located in Goose Lake Township, Grundy County, Illinois. DNPS is owned and operated by Exelon Generation Company, LLC (Exelon). The application for renewal was submitted by Exelon on January 3, 2003, pursuant to NRC requirements at Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 54 (10 CFR Part 54). The NRC has established that, as part of the staff review of any nuclear power plant license renewal action, a site-specific Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to its "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants" (GEIS), NUREG-1437, will be prepared under the provisions of 10 CFR Part 51, the NRC rules that implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In accordance with 36 CFR 800.8, the SEIS will include analyses of potential impacts to historic and cultural resources. A draft SEIS is scheduled for publication in December of 2003, and will be provided to you for review and comment.

In the context of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Agency official (the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, NRC) has determined that the area of potential effect (APE) for a license renewal action is the area at the power plant site and its immediate environs which may be impacted by post-license renewal land disturbing operation or projected refurbishment activities associated with the proposed action. The APE may extend beyond the immediate environs in those instances where post-license renewal land disturbing operations or projected refurbishment activities, specifically related to license renewal, potentially have an effect on known or proposed historic sites. This determination is made irrespective of ownership or control of the lands of interest.

While preparing its application, Exelon contacted your office by letter dated January 11, 2002, and your office responded on January 30, 2002. In its letter, Exelon stated that the operation of DNPS, including the maintenance of identified transmission lines, through the license renewal term is not expected to affect cultural or historic resources in the area. Exelon further stated that no new construction was planned, and maintenance activities would be limited to previously disturbed areas. It was also noted that the American Nuclear Society designated DNPS Unit 1 as a Nuclear Historic Landmark. The January 30, 2002, response letter stated that based on

the information provided, no historic properties would be affected, and IHPA had no objection to the undertaking proceeding as planned.

We request that you respond to this letter and indicate whether there are any changes to the determination in your January 30, 2002, letter to Exelon. For your information, enclosed is one example of a letter sent from the NRC staff to 13 Native American Tribes identified by the Bureau of Indian Affairs as having potential interest in the proposed undertaking affording them the opportunity to participate in this process and identify issues of concern to them. No issues have been identified to date. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the Environmental Project Manager, Duke Wheeler at 301-415-1444 or 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.: 50-237 and 50-249

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/o encl.: See next page

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Enclosure: As stated

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Dresden Nuclear Power Units 2 and 3

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ENCLOSURE

LETTER TO: THE HONORABLE LISA WAUKAU, CHAIRPERSON

MENOMINEE INDIAN TRIBE OF WISCONSIN

(NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBE IDENTIFIED BY THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS)

MARCH 12, 2003

March 12, 2003

The Honorable Lisa Waukau, Chairperson
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
P.O. Box 910
Keshena, WI 54135-0910

SUBJECT: U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION REVIEW OF THE DRESDEN
NUCLEAR POWER STATION LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION

Dear Ms. Waukau:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is seeking input for its environmental review of an application from Exelon Generation Company, LLC (Exelon) to renew its operating license for the Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Units 2 and 3 (DNPS), located in Grundy County, Illinois. DNPS is in close proximity to lands that may be of interest to the Menominee Tribe. As described below, the NRC process includes an opportunity for public participation in the environmental review. We want to ensure that you are aware of our efforts and, pursuant to 10 CFR 51.28(b), the NRC invites the Menominee Indian Community to provide input to the scoping process relating to the NRC's environmental review of the application.

The NRC will hold public scoping meetings for the DNPS license renewal supplement to the NRC's "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants" (GEIS) (NUREG-1437). These scoping meetings will be held at Jennifer's Garden Banquet and Convention Center, 555 West Gore Road, Morris, Illinois, on April 10, 2003. 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. No formal 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. 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 licenses for DNPS will expire in 2011. Exelon submitted an environmental report as part of its application for renewal of the DNPS operating license on January 3, 2003. 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. In addition, the application can be viewed on the Internet <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/dresden-quad.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; at the Morris Area Public Library, 604 West Liberty Street, Morris, Illinois; and the Coal City Public Library District, 85 North Garfield Street, Coal City, Illinois. 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 DNPS-specific supplement to the GEIS. The supplement will contain the results of the review of the environmental impacts on the area surrounding the DNPS 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 Menominee Indian Community may have to offer on the scope of the environmental review by May 12, 2003. 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 e-mail to DresdenEIS@nrc.gov.

At the conclusion of the scoping process, the NRC staff will prepare a summary of the significant issues identified, the conclusions reached, and will mail 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 DNPS is planned for July 2004. If you need additional information regarding the environmental review process, please contact Louis L. Wheeler, Project Manager, at (301) 415-1444.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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