

December 15, 2003

Mr. Gregory E. Pyle
Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Drawer 1210
16th and Locust Streets
Durant, Oklahoma 74702-1210

SUBJECT: U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION REVIEW OF THE
ARKANSAS NUCLEAR ONE, UNIT 2 LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION

Dear Mr. Pyle:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is seeking input for its environmental review of an application from Entergy Operations, Inc. (Entergy) to renew its operating license for Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2 (ANO-2), located in Pope County, Arkansas, approximately 6 miles west-northwest of Russellville, Arkansas. ANO-2 is in close proximity to lands that may be of interest to the Choctaw Nation. 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 Choctaw Tribal Community to provide input to the scoping process relating to the NRC's environmental review of the application. In addition, as outlined in 36 CFR 800.8, the NRC plans to coordinate compliance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 through the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

The NRC will hold public scoping meetings for the ANO-2 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 the Holiday Inn, 2407 North Arkansas Avenue, Russellville, Arkansas 72802, on Tuesday, February 3, 2004. 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 license for ANO-2 will expire in 2018. Entergy submitted an environmental report as part of its application for renewal of the ANO-2 operating license on October 15, 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 at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/ano-2.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, 20852-2738, and at the Ross Pendergraft Library at Arkansas Tech University, located at 305 West Q Street, Russellville, Arkansas, 72801. 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 ANO-2 site-specific supplement to the GEIS. The supplement will contain the results of the review of the environmental impacts on the area surrounding the ANO 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 Choctaw Tribal Community may have to offer on the scope of the environmental review by February 20, 2004. Comments should be submitted either by mail to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Mail Stop T-6D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001, or by e-mail to ANOEIS@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 public meeting 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 impact statement for ANO-2 is planned for April 2005. If you

G. Pyle

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need additional information regarding the environmental review process, please contact Thomas Kenyon, Environmental Project Manager, at (301) 415-1120.

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.: 50-368

cc: See next page

G. Pyle

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| DATE | 11/20/03 | 11/24/03 | 11/25/03 | 11/26/03 | 12/8/03 | 12/15/03 |

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Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2

cc:

Executive Vice President
& Chief Operating Officer
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P. O. Box 31995
Jackson, Mississippi 39286-1995

Division of Radiation Control and
Emergency Management
Arkansas Department of Health
4815 West Markham, Mail Slot #30
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-3867

Winston & Strawn
1400 L Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3502

Mr. Mike Schoppman
Framatome ANP, Richland, Inc.
Suite 705
1911 North Fort Myer Drive
Rosslyn, VA 22209

Senior Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P. O. Box 310
London, Arkansas 72847

Regional Administrator, Region IV
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400
Arlington, Texas 76011-8064

County Judge of Pope County
Pope County Courthouse
Russellville, Arkansas 72801

Vice President, Operations Support
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P. O. Box 31995
Jackson, Mississippi 39286-1995

Wise, Carter, Child & Caraway
P. O. Box 651
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Mr. Garry Young
Entergy Operations, Inc.
Arkansas Nuclear One
1448 SR 333 GSB-2E
Russellville, Arkansas 72802

Russellville Resident Office
U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
PO Box 1087
Russellville, Arkansas 72811

Director
Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
1500 Tower Building
323 Center Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Mr. Craig Uyeda
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
2 Natural Resources Drive
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

George McCluskey, Senior Archeologist
Arkansas State Historic Preservation Office
323 Center Street, Suite 1500
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Director
Arkansas Department of Environmental
Quality
PO Box 8913
Little Rock, Arkansas 72219-8913

Director
Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation
Commission
101 E. Capitol Ave, Suite 350
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Chairman
Arkansas Public Service Commission
1000 Center Building
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Raye Turner
Mayor, City of Russellville
PO Box 428
Russellville, Arkansas 72801

Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2

cc:

Edwin Price
Mayor, City of London
PO Box 130
London, Arkansas 72847

Mayor, City of Dardanelle
PO Box V
Dardanelle, Arkansas 72834

Logan County Judge
Courthouse, Room 22
Paris, Arkansas 72855

Johnson County Judge
P.O. Box 278
Clarksville, Arkansas 72830

Yell County Judge
P.O. Box 236
Dardanelle, Arkansas 72834

Conway County Judge
Courthouse
Morrilton, Arkansas 72110

LaRue Parker, Chairwoman
Caddo Indian Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 487
Binger, Oklahoma 73009

Chad Smith, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 948
Tahlequah, Oklahoma 74465

Gregory E. Pyle, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Drawer 1210
16th and Locust Streets
Durant, Oklahoma 74702-1210

R. Perry Beaver, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447

Jim R. Gray, Principal Chief
Osage Tribal Council
P.O. Box 799
Pawhuska, Oklahoma 74056

John Berry, Chairman
Quapaw Tribal Business Committee
P.O. Box 765
Quapaw, Oklahoma 74363

Jerry G. Haney, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1498
Wewoka, Oklahoma 74884

Dallas Proctor, Chief
United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee
Indians
PO Box 746
Tahlequah, OK 74465

Rick Buckley
Entergy Operations, Inc.
PO Box 31995
Jackson, Mississippi 39286

Jager Smith
Entergy Operations, Inc.
PO Box 651
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Bernard Bevill
Arkansas Department of Health
4815 West Markham Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

Chris Meyer
Arkansas Department of Health
P. O. Box 1749
Russellville, Arkansas 72811

Dennis Calloway
Entergy Operations, Inc.
1448 SR 333
Russellville, Arkansas 72801

Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2

cc:

Grant Merrill
KARV Radio
201 West Second Street
Russellville, Arkansas 72801

Kate Sullivan
KATV
Main Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72211

Tom McChesney
Arkansas Department of Health
P.O. Box 1749
Russellville, Arkansas 72811

Ms. Francis Hager
Ross Pendergraft Library
Arkansas Tech University
305 West Q Street
Russellville, Arkansas 72801

U.S. EPA, Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue
Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202

Mr. Craig G. Anderson
Vice President Operations, ANO
Entergy Operations, Inc.
1448 S. R. 333
Russellville, AR 72801