

December 21, 2003

Dr. Mary Knapp
Field Supervisor
Reynoldsburg Ecological Services Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
6950-H Americana Parkway
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-4127

SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR AN EARLY SITE PERMIT FOR THE NORTH ANNA
POWER STATION SITE

Dear Dr. Knapp:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing an application submitted by Dominion Nuclear North Anna LLC (Dominion), for an early site permit (ESP) for the potential future construction of one or more new nuclear power plants. As part of the review of this application the NRC staff is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS). The impact analysis in the EIS includes the potential impacts of the construction and operation of a new nuclear power plant at the preferred or alternate sites, including the potential impacts to fish and wildlife and threatened and endangered species.

Dominion's preferred alternative for the location of the proposed new nuclear power plant is within the site boundaries of the existing North Anna Power Station, located on the south shore of Lake Anna Reservoir in Louisa County, Virginia. One of the alternate sites considered within the ESP application is the U.S. Department of Energy's Portsmouth Site, located in Pike County, Ohio. The electricity generated by a new power plant at this location most likely would be transmitted to the regional electrical grid via new transmission lines that would be routed completely within the boundaries of the Portsmouth site.

To support the EIS preparation process and to ensure compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, 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 Portsmouth Site. In addition, please provide any information you consider appropriate under the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934.

The NRC intends to inspect the proposed site, consult the National Wetland Database, and work with Portsmouth Site staff to assess potential impacts to wetlands at this site. NRC staff also will interact with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources concerning potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating a new nuclear power plant at the Portsmouth Site.

M. Knapp

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If you have any questions concerning the ESP application, or other aspects of this project, please contact Mr. Andrew Kugler, Environmental Project Manager, at (301) 415-2828 or by e-mail at AJK1@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.: 52-008

cc: See next page

M. Knapp

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If you have any questions concerning the ESP application, or other aspects of this project, please contact Mr. Andrew Kugler, Environmental Project Manager, at (301) 415-2828 or by e-mail at AJK1@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

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Docket Nos.: 52-008

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