

December 21, 2003

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

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

Dear Mr. Banks:

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 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 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 Savannah River Site (SRS), located in Aiken and Barnwell Counties, South Carolina. A new plant located at this site would likely utilize a closed cycle cooling system, drawing make-up water from either the Savannah River or from Parr Pond on the SRS. The electricity generated by a new plant most likely would be transmitted to the regional electrical grid via new transmission lines that would cross the SRS and the Savannah River and connect to the switchyard at the Vogtle Nuclear Station in Burke County, Georgia.

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 SRS. 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 alternate site, consult the National Wetland Database, and work with SRS staff to assess potential impacts to wetlands at this site. NRC staff will also interact with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources concerning potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating a new nuclear power plant at the SRS.

R. Banks

2

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 No.: 52-008

cc: See next page

R. Banks

2

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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Pao-Tsin Kuo, Program Director
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Docket No.: 52-008

cc: See next page

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