

January 6, 2004

Mr. David Stilwell, Field Office Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
New York Ecological Services Office
3817 Luker Road
Cortland, NY 13045

SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR AN EARLY SITE PERMIT (ESP) FOR THE GRAND GULF
ESP SITE

Dear Mr. Stilwell:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing an application by System Energy Resources, Inc. (SERI) 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.

SERI's preferred alternative for the location of the proposed new power plant(s) is within the site boundaries of the existing Grand Gulf Nuclear Power Station (GGNS), site near the town of Port Gibson in Claiborne County, Mississippi. Three alternate sites will also be evaluated in the EIS. They are River Bend in West Feliciana County, Louisiana; FitzPatrick in Oswego County, New York; and Pilgrim in Plymouth County, Massachusetts.

The application for an ESP was submitted by SERI on October 16, 2003, pursuant to NRC requirements at Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 52 (10 CFR 52). If approved, the ESP will document the NRC staff's determination regarding the suitability of the proposed site for the construction and operation of one or more new nuclear plants. The ESP would not authorize the applicant to begin construction of the unit(s). However, in its review the NRC staff will evaluate the environmental impacts of construction and operation and will also consider alternatives, including alternative sites.

To support the environmental impact statement preparation process and to ensure compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the NRC requests a list of endangered, threatened, candidate, and proposed species and critical habitat that are known to occur or could potentially occur in Oswego County, New York. In addition, please provide any information you consider appropriate under the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934.

D. Stilwell

2

If you have any questions concerning the ESP application, or other aspects of this project, please contact Ms. Cristina Guerrero, at (301) 415-2981 or by e-mail at CXG3@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.: 52-009

cc: See next page

D. Stilwell

2

If you have any questions concerning the ESP application, or other aspects of this project, please contact Ms. Cristina Guerrero, at (301) 415-2981 or by e-mail at CXG3@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.: 52-009

cc: See next page

DISTRIBUTION:

PUBLIC

Docket File

D. Matthews/F. Gillespie

P.T. Kuo

T. Kenyon

J. Wilson

C. Guerrero

V. Dricks, RIV

C. Brandt (PNNL)

RLEP R/F

J. Tappert

J. Lyons

L. Dudes

D. Pickett

S. Koenick

W. Johnson, RIV

C. Paulk, RIV

A. Fernandez

T. Eschbach (PNNL)

Accession No.: **ML040081119**

*See previous concurrence

C:\ORPCheckout\FileNET\ML040081119.wpd

OFFICE	LA:RLEP	GS:RLEP	PM:RLEP	SC:RLEP	OGC (NLO)	PD:RLEP
NAME	LJenkins*	CGuerrero	JWilson	JTappert	AFernandez	PTKuo
DATE	12/22/03	12/23/03	12/23/03	12/23/03	12/31/03	1/6/04

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Grand Gulf Early Site Permit - Environmental Review

cc:

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

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

Winston & Strawn
1400 L Street, N.W. - 12th Floor
Washington, DC 20005-3502

Chief
Energy and Transportation Branch
Environmental Compliance and
Enforcement Division
Mississippi Department of Environmental
Quality
P. O. Box 10385
Jackson, MS 39289-0385

President
Claiborne County
Board of Supervisors
P. O. Box 339
Port Gibson, MS 39150

Regional Administrator, Region IV
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000
Arlington, TX 76011

Senior Resident Inspector
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P. O. Box 399
Port Gibson, MS 39150

General Manager, GGNS
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P. O. Box 756
Port Gibson, MS 39150

Attorney General
Department of Justice
State of Louisiana
P. O. Box 94005
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9005

State Health Officer
State Board of Health
P. O. Box 1700
Jackson, MS 39205

Office of the Governor
State of Mississippi
Jackson, MS 39201

Attorney General
Asst. Attorney General
State of Mississippi
P. O. Box 22947
Jackson, MS 39225

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

Director
Nuclear Safety Assurance
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P.O. Box 756
Port Gibson, MS 39150

Charles Paulk, Region IV
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400
Arlington, TX 76011

Nancy Butler
Harriette Person Memorial Library
606 Main St.
Port Gibson, MS 39150

Mr. William A. Eaton
Vice President, Operations GGNS
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P. O. Box 756
Port Gibson, MS 39150

The Honorable Phillip Martin, Chief
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
P.O. Box 6010 - Choctaw Branch
Choctaw, MS 39350

The Honorable Gregory E. Pyle, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
P. O. Drawer 1210
Durant, OK 74702-1210

Earl J. Barbry Jr., State Historic
Preservation Officer
Tunica Biloxi Indian Tribe of Louisiana
P.O. Box 1589
Marksville, LA 71351

Mr. Tom Wagner
Federal and State Review Program
Interagency Coordinator
Mississippi Department of Archives and
History
Historic Preservation
P. O. Box 571
Jackson, MS 39205-0571

Mr. Don Klima, Director
Office of Federal Agency Programs
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Old Post Office Building
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 809
Washington, DC 20004

Mr. David Stilwell, Field Office Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
New York Ecological Services Office
3817 Luker Road
Cortland, NY 13045

Mr. Mike Bartlett, Field Office Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
New England Ecological Services Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301-5087

Mr. Russ Watson
Acting Field Office Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Louisiana Ecological Services Office
646 Cajundome Blvd.
Lafayette, LA 70506

Mr. Ray Aycock, Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mississippi Ecological Services Office
6578 Dogwood View Parkway
Jackson, MS 39213

Ms. Georgia Cranmore
Assistant Regional Administrator
NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office
9721 Executive Center Drive North
Saint Petersburg, FL 33702

Ms. Patricia Kurkul
Regional Administrator
NOAA Fisheries Northeast Regional Office
1 Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930