

January 8, 2004

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

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

Dear Mr. Wagner:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing an application for an ESP to set aside a site for the potential future construction of one or more new nuclear power plants. The NRC staff is currently seeking information from consulting parties, and other individuals and organizations likely to have knowledge of, or concerns with, historic properties in the area, to identify issues relating to the proposed undertaking's potential effects on historic properties.

If built, the new unit(s) would be co-located with the existing Grand Gulf Nuclear Power Station (GGNS) site near the town of Port Gibson in Claiborne County, Mississippi. The application for an ESP was submitted by System Energy Resources, Inc, (SERI), on October 16, 2003, pursuant to NRC requirements at Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 52 (10 CFR Part 52). The application is available through the web-based version of the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) which can be found at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. The application is listed under Accession Number ML032960315.

As part of its review of the application, the NRC staff will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) under the provisions of 10 CFR Part 51, the NRC rules that implement the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). In accordance with 36 CFR 800.8, the EIS will include analyses of potential impacts to historic properties, and 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.

If approved, 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.

In the context of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the NRC staff has determined that the area of potential effect (APE) for this ESP review is the area at the power plant site and its immediate environs which may be impacted by land-disturbing activities associated with the construction and operation of the new unit(s). The power plant site is located in Claiborne County, Mississippi.

We invite you and your staff to participate in the review of the Grand Gulf ESP application. We will also be contacting any Native American Tribes, including the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, the Choctaw of Mississippi, and the Tunika Biloxi Indian Tribe of Louisiana that may have a potential interest in the proposed undertaking, affording them the opportunity to participate in this process and identify issues of concern to them. These tribes have been identified by records research with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, State and local governments, tribal organizations, and at a meeting the NRC had with Department of Archives and History staff on July 30, 2003.

On January 21, 2004, the NRC will conduct a public environmental scoping meeting from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. at the Port Gibson City Hall, located at 1005 College Street, Port Gibson, Mississippi. You and your staff are invited to attend. Your office will receive a copy of the draft EIS along with a request for comments after it is issued. The draft EIS will include identification of historic properties, assessment of impacts, and our preliminary determination. The anticipated publication date for the draft EIS is February 2005. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Ms. Cristina Guerrero at 301-415-2981 or 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 No.: 52-009

cc: See next page

In the context of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the NRC staff has determined that the area of potential effect (APE) for this ESP review is the area at the power plant site and its immediate environs which may be impacted by land-disturbing activities associated with the construction and operation of the new unit(s). The power plant site is located in Claiborne County, Mississippi.

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

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OFFICE	LA:RLEP	GS:RLEP	PM:RLEP	SC:RLEP	OGC (NLO) subject to changes	PD:RLEP
NAME	MJenkins*	CGuerrero*	JWilson*	JTappert*	AFernandez*	PTKuo
DATE	12/19/03	12/23/03	12/23/03	12/23/03	1/7/04	1/8/04

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Distribution of Ltr. to T. Wagner Re: ESP for Grand Gulf ESP Site, Dated: January 8, 2004

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J. Wilson
L. Dudes
C. Paulk, RIV
C. Brandt (PNNL)
D. Matthews/F. Gillespie
C. Guerrero
D. Pickett
B. Johnson, RIV
T. Eschbach (PNNL)
P. T. Kuo
J. Tappert
S. Koenick
V. Dricks, RIV
RLEP R/F
T. Kenyon
J. Lyons
W. Johnson, RIV
A. Fernandez, OGC

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

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

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

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

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

Office of the Governor
State of Mississippi
Jackson, MS 39201

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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