

January 8, 2004

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

SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR AN EARLY SITE PERMIT FOR THE GRAND GULF SITE

Dear Mr. Watson:

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 location for 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 EIS preparation process and to ensure compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the NRC requests a list of endangered, threatened, candidate, or proposed species and critical habitat that are known to occur or could potentially occur in West Feliciana County, Louisiana. In addition, please provide any information you consider appropriate under the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934.

R. Watson

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](mailto: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

R. Watson

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](mailto: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

B. Johnson, RIV

A. Fernandez

T. Eschbach (PNNL)

J. Tappert

J. Lyons

L. Dudes

D. Pickett

S. Koenick

W. Johnson, RIV

C. Paulk, RIV

V. Dricks, RIV

C. Brandt (PNNL)

RLEP R/F

Accession No.: **ML040090141**

C:\ORPCheckout\FileNET\ML040090141.wpd

OFFICE	LA:RLEP	GS:RLEP	PM:RLEP	SC:RLEP	OGC (NLO)	PD:RLEP
NAME	M. Jenkins	C. Guerrero	J. Wilson (DWheeler for)	J. Tappert (DWheeler for)	K. Kannler	P.T. Kuo
DATE	12/22/03	12/29/03	12/29/03	12/29/03	12/31/03	1/8/04

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