

January 13, 2004

Mr. Maynard Crossland
Director
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
Preservation Services Division
One Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, IL 62701

SUBJECT: DRESDEN NUCLEAR POWER STATION LICENSE RENEWAL REVIEW

Dear Mr. Crossland:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing an application to renew the operating licenses for Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Units 2 and 3 (DNPS), which is located in Goose Lake Township, Grundy County, Illinois. DNPS is owned by Exelon Generation Company, LLC (Exelon). Exelon holds the NRC license to operate the plant. As part of its review of the proposed action, the NRC staff has prepared a site-specific Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to its "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants" (GEIS), NUREG-1437. The SEIS includes analyses of relevant environmental issues, including potential impacts to historic, archeological and cultural properties from refurbishment activities associated with license renewal, and for the extended period of operation. In accordance with our letter to you of July 1, 2003, a copy of the draft supplement is enclosed. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.8, we are requesting your comments on the draft supplement and on our preliminary conclusions regarding historic properties.

As stated in our July 1, 2003, letter the NRC staff has determined that the area of potential effect (APE) for a license renewal action is the area at the power plant site and its immediate environs which may be impacted by post-license renewal land disturbing operation or projected refurbishment activities associated with the proposed action. The staff views the APE for the DNPS license renewal as including the DNPS site and the immediate environs.

The NRC staff has conducted an environmental audit at the site, and has reviewed historic and archaeological records. As noted in our July 1, 2003, letter we also contacted fifteen Native American Tribes identified as having potential interest in the proposed undertaking. To date, no comments have been received.

In the context of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 under which the draft environmental impact statement was prepared, the NRC staff's preliminary determination is that the impact of license renewal on historical and archaeological resources is SMALL and additional mitigation is not warranted. Under the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the NRC staff's preliminary determination is that there will be no historic properties affected for the proposed action.

M. Crossland

2

Please note that the period for public comment expires on February 24, 2004. If your office requires additional time, or if there are any other questions regarding this correspondence, please have your representative contact the Environmental Project Manager, Mr. Louis Wheeler, at 301-415-1444 or DXW@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.: 50-237, 50-249

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/o Encl.: See next page

M. Crossland

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1. Ltr.. To M. Crossland w.Svc. List: **ML040150302**
2. NUREG-1437, Suppl. 17, GEIS for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants, Re: Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Units 2 and 3: **ML033280676**
3. Pkg: **ML040150324**

*See Previous Concurrence

DOCUMENT NAME: C:\ORPCheckout\FileNET\ML040150302.wpd

OFFICE	LA:RLEP	GS:RLEP	PM:RLEP	SC:RLEP	OGC (NLO) w/comments	PD:RLEP
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DATE	01/5/04	01/5/04	01/5/04	01/6/04	01/8/04	01/13/04

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