

March 2, 2004

Mr. Brian Conway
Michigan State Historic Preservation Office
Michigan Historical Center
Box 30740
717 W. Allegan Street
Lansing, MI 48909-8240

SUBJECT: DONALD C. COOK NUCLEAR PLANT OPERATING LICENSE RENEWAL
APPLICATION REVIEW

Dear Mr. Conway,

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing an application to renew the operating licenses for the Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 (CNP), which is located in Lake Charter Township, Berrien County, Michigan. CNP is owned and operated by the Indiana Michigan Power Company (I&M), a wholly owned subsidiary of American Electric Power. The NRC received an application for license renewal from the I&M on November 3, 2003, pursuant to the NRC requirements at the Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 54 (10 CFR Part 54). The NRC has established that, as part of the staff review of any nuclear power plant license renewal action, a site-specific Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to its "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants" (GEIS), NUREG-1437, will be prepared under the provisions of 10 CFR Part 51, the rules of the NRC that implement the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). In accordance with 36 CFR 800.8, the SEIS will include analyses of potential impacts to historic and cultural resources. A draft SEIS is scheduled for publication in September 2004 and will be provided to you for review and comment.

In the context of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the Agency official (the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, NRC) has determined that the area of potential effect 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 operations or projected refurbishment activities associated with the proposed action. The area of potential effect may extend beyond the immediate environs in those instances where post-license renewal land-disturbing operations or projected refurbishment activities, specifically related to license renewal, potentially have an effect on known or proposed historic sites. This determination is made irrespective of ownership or control of the lands of interest.

While preparing the application, I&M contacted your office by letter dated March 17, 2003. In the letter, I&M stated that it has no plans to alter CNP operations through the license renewal term. I&M further stated that no major expansion of existing facilities is planned, no major structural modifications have been identified for the purpose of supporting license renewal, and no additional land disturbance is anticipated.

B. Conway

- 2 -

On March 8, 2004, the NRC will conduct two public NEPA scoping meetings at the Lake Charter Township Hall, 3220 Shawnee Road, Bridgman, Michigan, 49106. You and your staff are invited to attend. The anticipated publication date for the draft SEIS is September 2004. Your office will receive a copy of the draft SEIS for review and comment. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the Environmental Project Manager for the CNP license renewal project, Mr. Robert Schaaf at 301-415-1312 or RGS@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.: 50-315 and 50-316

cc: See next page

B. Conway

- 2 -

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* See previous concurrence.

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OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2

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