

March 17, 2004

Ms. Patricia A. Kurkul, Regional Administrator
NOAA Fisheries
Northeast Regional Office
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR AN EARLY SITE PERMIT FOR THE CLINTON ESP SITE

Dear Ms. Kurkul:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing an application submitted by Exelon Generation Company, LLC (Exelon) 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 analyses in the EIS will include the potential impacts of the construction and operation of one or more new nuclear power plants at the preferred site or at one of six alternate sites, including the potential impacts to fish and wildlife and threatened and endangered species.

The preferred location of the new unit(s), if built, would be the existing Clinton Power Station (CPS) site on Lake Clinton near the town of Clinton in DeWitt County, Illinois, approximately 6 miles east of the City of Clinton along the shore of Clinton Lake. Exelon also has a list of six alternate sites that will be evaluated in the EIS. The six alternate sites are existing generating stations owned and operated by Exelon: Braidwood Nuclear Station, in Will County, Illinois (on Braidwood Lake); Zion Nuclear Power Station, in Lake County, Illinois (on the western shore of Lake Michigan); Byron Generating Station, in Ogle County, Illinois (on the Rock River); Dresden Nuclear Power Station, in Grundy County, Illinois (on the south shoreline of the Illinois River at the confluence of the Des Plaines and Kankakee Rivers); LaSalle County Generating Station, in LaSalle County, Illinois (on LaSalle Lake); and Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station, in Rock Island County, Illinois (on the east bank of Pool 14 of the Mississippi River).

The application for an ESP was submitted by Exelon on September 25, 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 new unit(s). However, in its review the NRC staff will evaluate the environmental impacts of construction and operation and will also consider alternatives, including the above alternative sites.

To support the EIS 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 designated and proposed critical habitat under the jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries, that may be in the vicinity of the CPS site and its transmission line corridors (McLean and DeWitt counties only), and the six alternate sites listed above. In addition, please provide any information you consider appropriate under the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934.

If you have any questions concerning the ESP application or other aspects of this project, please contact Mr. Thomas Kenyon, Senior Environmental Senior Project Manager, at (301) 415-1120 or by e-mail at TJK2@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.: 52-007

cc: See next page

To support the EIS 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 designated and proposed critical habitat under the jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries, that may be in the vicinity of the CPS site and its transmission line corridors (McLean and DeWitt counties only), and the six alternate sites listed above. In addition, please provide any information you consider appropriate under the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934.

If you have any questions concerning the ESP application or other aspects of this project, please contact Mr. Thomas Kenyon, Senior Environmental Senior Project Manager, at (301) 415-1120 or by e-mail at TJK2@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.: 52-007

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OFFICE	RLEP:DRIP:LA	RLEP:DRIP:GS	RLEP:DRIP:PM	RLEP:DRIP:SC:ES	RLEP:DRIP:PM
NAME	YEdmonds*	JDavis*	TKenyon*	JTappert*	P.T. Kuo (SSLee for)
DATE	03/04/04	03/05/04	03/08/04	03/10/04	03/17/04

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Clinton Early Site Permit

cc:

Ms. Marilyn Kray
Vice President, Project Development
Exelon Generation
200 Exelon Way, KSA3-EN
Kennett Square, PA 19348

Mr. Rod Krich
Vice President, Licensing Projects
Exelon Nuclear
4300 Winfield Road
Warrenville, IL 60555

Mr. Thomas Mundy
Director, Project Development
Exelon Generation
200 Exelon Way, KSA3-EN
Kennett Square, PA 19348

Mr. William Maher
Exelon Generation
200 Exelon Way, KSA2-N
Kennett Square, PA 19348

Mr. Thomas S. O'Neill
Associate General Counsel
Exelon Nuclear
4300 Winfield Road
Warrenville, IL 60555

Mr. Eddie Grant
Exelon Generation
200 Exelon Way, KSA3-EN
Kennett Square, PA 19348

Exelon Nuclear
Correspondence Control Desk
200 Exelon Way, KSA1-N
Kennett Square PA, 19348

Mr. David Lochbaum
Union of Concerned Scientists
1707 H Street, NW
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20006-3919

Mr. Paul Gunter
Director of the Reactor Watchdog Project
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
1424 16th Street, NW, Suite 404
Washington, DC 20036

Mr. Ron Simard
Nuclear Energy Institute
Suite 400
1776 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Mr. Russell Bell
Nuclear Energy Institute
Suite 400
1776 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Mr. Thomas P. Miller
U.S. Department of Energy
Headquarters - Germantown
19901 Germantown Road
Germantown, MD 20874-1290

Mr. James Riccio
Greenpeace
702 H Street, NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20001

Ms. Patricia Campbell
Winston & Strawn
1400 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Mr. James F. Mally, Director
Regulatory Affairs
FRAMATOME, ANP
3315 Old Forest Road
Lynchburg, VA 24501

Mr. Ernie H. Kennedy
Vice President New Plants
Nuclear Plant Projects
Westinghouse Electric Company
2000 Day Hill Road
Windsor, CT 06095-0500

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cc:

Dr. Regis A. Matzie
Senior Vice President and
Chief Technology Officer
Westinghouse Electric Company
2000 Day Hill Road
Windsor, CT 06095-0500

Mr. John Loaniddi
Parsons Energy and Chemicals
2675 Morgantown Road
Reading, PA 19607

Ms. Amy Lientz
CH2M HILL
1020 Landbank Street
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402

Mr. Steven P. Frantz Esq.
Morgan Lewis and Bockius LLP
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Mr. Gary Wright, Director
Division of Nuclear Safety
Illinois Emergency Management Agency
1035 Outer Park Drive
Springfield, IL 62704

Dr. Gail H. Marcus
U.S. Department of Energy
Room 5A-143
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

Mr. Paul Leventhal
Nuclear Control Institute
1000 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 410
Washington, DC 20036

Mr. Jack W. Roe
SCIENTECH, INC.
910 Clopper Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Mr. Tom Clements
6703 Guide Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912

Mr. Vince Langman
Licensing Manager
Atomic Energy of Canada Limited
2251 Speakman Drive
Mississauga, Ontario
Canada L5K 1B2

Mr. David Ritter
Research Associate on Nuclear Energy
Public Citizens Critical Mass Energy
and Environmental Program
215 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20003

Mr. George Gore
702 West Washington Street
Urbana, IL 61801

Mr. Arthur L. Brighton
RR1, Box 22
Weldon, IL 61882

Mr. Dale Holtzscher
RR 1, Box 72A
Weldon, IL 61882

Mr. John Stolfa
P.O. Box 589
Mansfield, IL 61854-0589

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cc:

Mr. Ed Wallace, General Manager
Projects
PBMR Pty LTD
P.O. Box 9396
Centurion 0046
Republic of South Africa

Ms. Vanessa E. Quinn, Chief
Radiological Emergency Preparedness
Branch
Department of Homeland Security/FEMA
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20472

Mr. Joseph D. Hegner
Lead Engineer - Licensing
Dominion Generation
Early Site Permitting Project
5000 Dominion Boulevard
Glen Allen, VA 23060

Mr. George Alan Zinke
Project Manager
Nuclear Business Development
Entergy Nuclear
M-ECH-683
1340 Echelon Parkway
Jackson, MS 39213

Mr. Charles Brinkman
Westinghouse Electric Co.
Washington Operations
12300 Twinbrook Pkwy., Suite 330
Rockville, MD 20852

Mr. Marvin Fertel
Senior Vice President
and Chief Nuclear Officer
Nuclear Energy Institute
Suite 400
1776 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Dr. Glenn R. George
PA Consulting Group
130 Potter Street
Haddonfield, NJ 08033

Arthur R. Woods
Enercon Services, Inc.
500 TownPark Lane
Kennesaw, GA 30144

Ginger Molitor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Rock Island Ecological Services Office
4469 48th Avenue Court
Rock Island, IL 61201

Keith Shank, Manager
Division of Resources, Review and
Coordination
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702-1787

Ken Runkle
Toxicology Section
525 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, IL 62761

Robert Mosher, #15
1021 North Grand Avenue, East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, IL 62794-9274

Mike McCulley
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Region III Office
1556 State Route 54, East
Clinton, IL 61727

Donald Dieker
56 Holiday Drive
Clinton, IL 61727

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cc:

Ms. Cynthia Sauer
4730 East Minooka Road
Minooka, IL 60447

Mr. Tom Rudasill
The Vespasian Warner Public Library
District
310 N. Quincy Street
Clinton, IL 61727