

March 17, 2004

Mr. Richard Nelson, Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
4469 48th Avenue Court
Rock Island, IL 61201

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

Dear Mr. Nelson:

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 analysis in the EIS includes the potential impacts of the construction and operation of one or more new nuclear power plants at the preferred 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 near the town of Clinton in DeWitt County, Illinois, approximately 6 miles east of the City of Clinton along the shore of Clinton Lake. Four of the six alternate sites that will be evaluated in the EIS are located within the area serviced by your office. The four alternate sites are existing generating stations owned and operated by Exelon: Byron Generating Station, in Ogle County, Illinois; Dresden Nuclear Power Station, in Grundy County, Illinois; LaSalle County Generating Station, in LaSalle County, Illinois; and Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station, in Rock Island County, Illinois. Please note that the NRC will submit separate correspondence to the Chicago Ecological Field Services office regarding the other two alternate sites; Braidwood Nuclear Station, in Will County, Illinois and Zion Nuclear Power Station, in Lake County, Illinois.

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, that may be in the vicinity of the CPS site and its transmission line corridors (McLean and DeWitt counties only), and the four alternate sites. 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, Environmental 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, that may be in the vicinity of the CPS site and its transmission line corridors (McLean and DeWitt counties only), and the four alternate sites. 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, Environmental Project Manager, at (301) 415-1120 or by e-mail at TJK2@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Pao-Tsin Kuo, Program Director
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No.: 52-007

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Clinton Early Site Permit

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