March 18, 2004

Marvin Moriarty, Regional Director Northeast Regional Office U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 300 Westgate Center Drive Hadley, MA 01035-9589

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR LIST OF PROTECTED SPECIES WITHIN THE AREA UNDER

EVALUATION FOR THE MILLSTONE POWER STATION, UNITS 2 AND 3

LICENSE RENEWAL

Dear Mr. Moriarty:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is reviewing an application submitted by Dominion Nuclear Connecticut Inc. (DNC) for the renewal of the operating licenses for Millstone Power Station, Units 2 and 3 (MPS). MPS is located on the north shore of Long Island Sound in Waterford, Connecticut, approximately 40 miles southeast of Hartford, Connecticut. As part of the review of the license renewal application, the NRC is preparing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, which includes an analysis of pertinent environmental issues, including endangered or threatened species and impacts to fish and wildlife. This letter is being submitted under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934, as amended.

The proposed action would include the use and continued maintenance of existing plant facilities and transmission lines. The MPS site covers approximately 525 acres, of which approximately 220 acres is industrial. The area surrounding MPS is characterized by old field, mesic hardwood forest, coastal marsh and beach habitats. DNC also maintains a 50-acre wildlife refuge in the eastern portion of the MPS site.

Each MPS unit uses a once-through open-cycle cooling system with intakes on Niantic Bay and surface discharges to an old quarry cut, which empties into Long Island Sound. Occasional dredging or de-mucking at the intakes is performed as a normal part of operation.

For the specific purpose of connecting MPS to the regional transmission system, there is a total of approximately 91 miles of transmission line corridors that occupy approximately 3,052 acres of land. These transmission line corridors are being evaluated as part of the SEIS process. The transmission line corridors traverse New London, Toland, Hartford, Middlesex, and New Haven Counties. The corridors pass through land that is primarily agricultural and forest land. The enclosed transmission line map shows the transmission system that is being evaluated in the SEIS. Four 345-kilovolt (kV) lines connect MPS to the electric grid. All four transmission lines run northward from the plant in a common corridor (415 to 500 feet wide) for 9.1 miles to Hunts Brook Junction. At Hunts Brook Junction, the lines diverge, with two lines running north

to the Card and Manchester Substations, one line running east to the Montville Station, and one line running west to the Southington Substation. These four lines share corridors with other previously existing transmission lines.

To support the SEIS preparation process and to ensure compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the NRC requests a list of species and information on protected, proposed, and candidate species and critical habitat that may be in the vicinity of MPS and its associated transmission lines. In addition, please provide any information you consider appropriate under the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

We plan to hold two public NEPA scoping meetings on May 18, 2004, at the Waterford Town Hall Auditorium, 15 Rope Ferry Road in Waterford, Connecticut. On May 19, 2004, we plan to conduct a site audit. You and your staff are invited to attend both the site audit and the public meetings. Your office will receive a copy of the draft SEIS along with a request for comments. The anticipated publication date for the draft SEIS is December 2004.

If you have any questions concerning the NRC staff review of this license renewal application, please contact Mr. Richard L. Emch, Jr., Senior Project Manager at 301-415-1590 or RLE@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.: 50-336, 50-423

Enclosures: 1. MPS Transmission Line Map

2. MPS Site Layout

cc w/encl.: See next page

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Millstone Power Station, Units 2 and 3

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