

04/15/2004

Ms. Kristen Richards
Office of the Governor
207 State House
Springfield, Il 62706

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT BY THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY
COMMISSION FOR THE LICENSE RENEWAL OF THE GENERAL ELECTRIC
MORRIS OPERATION INDEPENDENT SPENT FUEL STORAGE
INSTALLATION

Dear Ms. Richards:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is currently reviewing an application originally submitted by the General Electric Company on May 22, 2000, for renewal of Materials License SNM-2500 for the General Electric Morris Operation (GE-MO) Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) on the Morris Operation site in Grundy County, Illinois. An applicant for a license renewal of this type must submit an environmental report as part of its application, as required under 10 CFR Part 51 of the NRC's regulations. The NRC staff reviews this information in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, as specified in 10 CFR 51.10.

The NRC staff has completed its environmental review of GE-MO's application, and we have drafted an Environmental Assessment (EA) to document our findings. We conclude in the EA that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

Consistent with NRC policy for such actions, the staff has contacted the designated representatives of the Illinois Historic Preservation Society and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, to ensure an opportunity to comment on environmental issues prior to public issuance of the EA. Mr. William Wheeler and Mr. Rick Pietruzka of the aforementioned State of Illinois offices have been contacted. Copies of the NRC staff's draft EA have been forwarded to them for review and comment. To ensure the State of Illinois has been comprehensively afforded an opportunity to review and comment on the draft EA I have enclosed a copy, which is marked as pre-decisional information, for your review and comment. We request that the distribution and use of this document be limited only to those staff involved in the review and comment process. We further request that your office provide any comments to the NRC staff within 30 days of receipt of this letter.

K. Richards

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The NRC staff will consider your timely comments, and will revise the Environmental Assessment, as appropriate, before its final issuance. Concurrent with the issuance of the EA, the staff plans to forward its Finding of No Significant Impact for publication in the Federal Register.

If you or your staff have any questions on this matter, please contact me at (301) 415-1179.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Christopher M. Regan, Project Manager
Spent Fuel Project Office
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Docket No.: 72-1

Enclosure: Draft Environmental Assessment (Pre-Decisional Information)

cc: Mailing list (w/o enclosure)

K. Richards

-2-

April 15, 2004

The NRC staff will consider your timely comments, and will revise the Environmental Assessment, as appropriate, before its final issuance. Concurrent with the issuance of the EA, the staff plans to forward its Finding of No Significant Impact for publication in the Federal Register.

If you or your staff have any questions on this matter, please contact me at (301) 415-1179.

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Christopher M. Regan, Project Manager
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General Electric - Morris Operation
Docket Number 72-1

cc: w/o enclosure

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