

May 12, 2004

Ms. Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator
NOAA Fisheries
Northeast Regional Office
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 09130-2298

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR LIST OF PROTECTED SPECIES WITHIN THE AREA UNDER
EVALUATION FOR POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2,
LICENSE RENEWAL

Dear Ms. Kurkul:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is reviewing an application submitted by Nuclear Management Company, LLC (NMC) for the renewal of the operating licenses for Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 (PBNP). PBNP is located on the western shore of Lake Michigan in Two Rivers, Wisconsin, approximately 30 miles southeast of Green Bay, Wisconsin. 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 PBNP site covers approximately 1260 acres, of which approximately 1050 acres are used for agriculture. Structures and parking lots occupy about 70 acres, and the remaining acreage is a natural mix of woods, wetlands, and open areas. The area within 6 miles of the plant is mainly farmland, woods, and small residential communities.

Each PBNP unit uses a once-through cooling system with intake and surface discharge to Lake Michigan. The intake structure had been reconfigured in 2001 due to bird mortality rates. The intake structure now stands below the lake surface.

For the specific purpose of connecting PBNP to the regional transmission system, there is a total of approximately 73 miles of transmission lines that occupy approximately 1955 acres of land. These transmission line corridors are being evaluated as part of the SEIS process. The transmission line corridors traverse Brown and Manitowoc Counties. The corridors pass through land that is primarily rolling hills covered with forests or farm land. The enclosed transmission line map shows the transmission system that is being evaluated in the SEIS. Three 345-kilovolt (kV) lines connect PBNP to the electric grid. A fourth transmission line connects Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant to the PBNP Substation.

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 PBNP site and its transmission line corridors. The NRC has also contacted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and requested a list of species and information on protected, proposed, and candidate species and critical habitat that may be in the vicinity of PBNP and its associated transmission lines.

We plan to hold two public NEPA scoping meetings on June 15, 2004, at Fox Hills, 250 West Church Street in Mishicot, Wisconsin. From June 16-17, 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 January 2005.

If you have any questions concerning the NRC staff review of this license renewal application, please contact Mr. William Dam, Project Manager, at 301-415-4014 or WLD@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.: 50-266 and 50-301

Enclosures: 1. PBNP Transmission Line Map
2. PBNP Site Layout

cc w/encls.: See next page

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Accession Nos.:

1. Letter to P. Kurkul: **ML041330481**
2. Maps, Figures: 3-1 (Facility Layout) and 3-2 (Transmission Line Map): **ML041260414**
3. Pkg: **ML041330494**

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