

May 2, 2005

Mr. Chris Burton
Progress Energy
P.O. Box 1551
411 Fayetteville Street Mall
Raleigh, NC 27602

SUBJECT: EXTENSION OF APPROVAL OF RAIL ROUTES TO TRANSPORT SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL FROM SOUTHPORT, NC, AND HARTSVILLE, SC, TO NEW HILL, NC, (NRC ROUTE NOS. 130 AND 135)

Dear Mr Burton:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your submittals of February 1, 2005, requesting the NRC reapprove rail routes for transporting spent nuclear fuel from the Brunswick Steam Electric Plant in Southport, NC, and the H. B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant in Hartsville, SC, to the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant in New Hill, NC (NRC Route Nos. 130 and 135, respectively). The NRC's previous approvals of these routes expires on May 8, 2005.

Because of other higher priority activities, the NRC staff has not yet completed its review of your submittals. The NRC has no information that would lead us to conclude that spent nuclear fuel cannot be safely and securely transported over rail routes 130 and 135. Your submittals were provided to the NRC in sufficient time for the NRC to perform its reviews. However, because exigent circumstances have not permitted the NRC to complete its reviews, the NRC considers your submittals to be timely.

Therefore, the NRC is extending the expiration date for routes 130 and 135 to August 6, 2005. If you have any questions on this matter, please contact Mr. Philip Brochman of my staff at (301) 415-6557.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Gary W. Purdy, Acting Chief
Materials, Waste, and Transportation
Security Section
Division of Nuclear Security
Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response

Docket Nos. 50-261; 50-324, and 50-325

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Gary W. Purdy, Acting Chief
Materials, Waste, and Transportation
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SISP Review performed by: P. Brochman

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* See previous concurrence

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