



United States Department of the Interior



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
Custom House, Room 244
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106-2904

2005 MAY 24 AM 9: 24

IN REPLY REFER TO:

May 17, 2005

3/10/05
707K 12022

ER 05/245

Mr. Michael T. Lesar
Chief, Rules and Directives Branch
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop T6-D59
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Received RDB
2005 MAY 24 AM 9: 24

30

Mr. Michael T. Lesar:

The U.S. Department of the Interior (Department) has reviewed the February 2005 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), NUREG-1815, for an Early Site Permit at the Exelon Generating Company, LLC, DeWitt County, Illinois. Exelon has applied to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for approval of a site within the existing Clinton Power Station boundaries as suitable for the construction and operation of a new nuclear power generating facility. The NRC staff has also provided a Biological Assessment to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) with a determination of the effects of the proposed action on federally listed threatened or endangered species. The FWS will provide a response to the NRC under separate cover.

The DEIS adequately discusses potential impacts of the project alternatives on fish and wildlife resources, as well as species protected by the Endangered Species Act. The greatest potential for impacts is associated with the possible need for modifications to transmission line rights-of-way, with a maximum loss of no more than 74 acres of forested habitat expected. These potential impacts will be addressed further in the construction permit application stage. Exelon has also agreed to contact the FWS before beginning any construction activities to ascertain whether previous determinations regarding threatened and endangered species remain valid or whether further evaluation would be needed. The Department appreciates this commitment.

For continued consultation and coordination on fish and wildlife matters and threatened and endangered species, please contact the Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4469 48th Avenue Court, Rock Island, Illinois 61201; Telephone: (309) 793-5800.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,

Michael T. Chezik
Regional Environmental Officer

SFSP Review Complete

Template = ADM-013

E-REDS = ADM-03

Att = T. Kenyon (TSK2)