



NuStartsm Energysm

May 18, 2006

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

ATTN: Steven Bloom, Senior Project Manager

SUBJECT: NuStart Bellefonte COL Project - NRC Project No. 740
AP-1000 Pre-Application Submittals

REFERENCE: Letter from George Zinke and Andrea Sterdis to Document Control
Desk; *Request for NRC Resource Expectations and Availability*;
dated March 8, 2006

In the referenced letter, NuStart discussed submittal of several AP1000 technical reports for pre-application review and requested information (e.g., resource estimates) regarding the Staff's ability to support such reviews. Attachment 1 to that letter provided an anticipated schedule for those submittals. While working with the Staff regarding resource estimates, we also agreed to begin submittal of topical information. The original schedule estimate has been updated in subsequent communications, but as the Staff has observed, the pre-application submittals are lagging behind the most recent schedule. This lag is the result of a number of issues causing us to revisit the schedule (including, for example, an expanded NuStart member review of submittals in the interest of increased standardization and enhanced quality).

NuStart agrees that predictability in these pre-application interactions is very important, and supports the Staff's desire to maintain current status information. Accordingly, NuStart is currently revising the pre-application submittal schedule, and expects to have an updated version available for the Staff's information by Friday, May 26, 2006. Further, to facilitate effective planning and communication in the future, NuStart will supply schedule status information to the Staff monthly, and will notify the Staff on a timely basis in the event of significant changes.

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Thank you for your continued support of pre-application reviews. If you have any questions, please contact me at (980) 373-7820 or at pshastings@duke-energy.com.

Sincerely,



Peter S. Hastings, PE
AP-1000 Reference Plant Licensing Lead

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