

November 14, 2006

Susan Cielinski
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1875 Century Blvd
Atlanta, GA 30345

SUBJECT: SECTION 7 CONSULTATION, REQUEST FOR CONCURRENCE ON U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION'S (NRC) DETERMINATION OF EFFECTS ON FEDERALLY-LISTED SPECIES AND THEIR CRITICAL HABITATS FOR THE PROPOSED LICENSE RENEWAL OF WESTINGHOUSE'S COLUMBIA FUEL FABRICATION FACILITY

Dear Ms. Cielinski:

By letter dated September 29, 2005, Westinghouse Electric Company, Inc. (Westinghouse) submitted a license renewal application to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to continue operations at their Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility (CFFF) in Richland County, near Columbia, South Carolina. The NRC has developed an Environmental Assessment (EA) in conjunction with the review of this license renewal application. The CFFF site is located approximately 13 km [8 mi] southeast of the city of Columbia, as depicted in Figure 1 of the enclosed draft EA. The various buildings and structures that make up CFFF only occupy approximately 24 ha [60 acres] or about 5 percent of the property area; the remaining 445 ha [1,100 acres] are undeveloped. Westinghouse has no plans to increase facility effluents or emissions, or to expand the facility beyond the existing 60-acre area within the 1,100 acre site.

While developing the EA, NRC staff evaluated the potential impacts of the proposed action and has determined that a granting of this license renewal is not likely to adversely affect any endangered or threatened species or critical habitat within the area of influence for the proposed action. We request your concurrence with this determination.

The NRC's evaluation of impacts to threatened and endangered species and wetlands, as provided in the attached draft EA, concludes the following:

- No change in impacts to wetlands is anticipated due to the Proposed Action because no filling, clearing, or other activities detrimental to identified jurisdictional wetlands or "Waters of the U.S." are expected as a result of the continued operation of CFFF.
- No change in impacts to site ecology is anticipated because of the Proposed Action. CFFF already exists and no changes to the facility or processes are associated with the license renewal for continued operations. Impacts to federal or state-listed threatened or endangered species and other flora and fauna in the site vicinity are unlikely.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Johari Moore of my staff by telephone at (301) 415-7694 or by email at jam7@nrc.gov. You may also contact Mr. Neil Haggerty of my staff by telephone at (301) 415-5196 or by e-mail at nxh3@nrc.gov. Written response can be provided to: B. Jennifer Davis, c/o Document Control Desk, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mailstop T-7J08, Washington DC, 20555-0001. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

/RA/

B. Jennifer Davis, Branch Chief
Environmental Review Branch
Environmental Protection and
Performance Assessment Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

Docket No.: 70-1151
License No.: SNM-1107

Enclosure:
Draft Environmental Assessment for
Renewal of NRC License No. SNM-1107
for the Westinghouse Electric Company, Inc.
Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility (CFFF)

cc: Tim Hall

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Docket No.: 70-1151
License No.: SNM-1107

Enclosure:
Draft Environmental Assessment for
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