November 15, 2006

Dr. Wenonah G. Haire Jr.
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
Catawba Indian Nation
Catawba Cultural Preservation Project
P.O. Box 750
Rock Hill, SC 29731

SUBJECT: SECTION 106 CONSULTATION, REQUEST FOR CONCURRENCE ON THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION'S DETERMINATION OF EFFECTS ON HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES FOR THE PROPOSED LICENSE RENEWAL OF WESTINGHOUSE'S COLUMBIA FUEL FABRICATION FACILITY

Dear Dr. Haire:

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 a draft 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 (enclosed). 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 draft 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 historic or cultural resources within the area of influence for the proposed action. The supporting basis for this conclusion, taken from the draft EA, describes the assessment of impacts on archaeological and historically significant sites and is provided in this letter to facilitate your review. We request your concurrence with the NRC's determination of not likely to adversely affect any historic or cultural resources.

The following excerpt from the draft EA describes archaeological or historically significant sites that are near the CFFF site:

> "The CFFF site is located near the Congaree River basin. Prehistoric inhabitants and historic Indian groups took advantage of the Congaree River region's diverse plant and animal resources. The Congaree Indians were a small tribe that farmed and built houses along the banks of the Congaree River next to other small Indian groups (Waddell, 2000; National Park Service, 2006). In 1545, Spanish explorer Hernando De Soto provided an early account of the local inhabitants and natural setting of the region (Clayton, et al, 1993). Contact with early European explorers such as De Soto resulted in the decimation of Indian groups through exposure to diseases. By 1700, the number of Congaree Indians was greatly reduced by smallpox and persistent tribal feuding. Eventually the few remaining Congaree were assimilated into the Catawba tribe. Today the Congaree Indians are considered extinct (Sheppard, 2006; Waddell, 2006).

A search of the National Register of Historic Places database confirmed 11 prehistoric and historic sites located within an 8-km [5-mi] radius of the CFFF site (National Register of Historic Places, 2006a,b). None of these sites are located on the CFFF property. Six prehistoric mound sites are located on bluffs along the Congaree River in the Congaree Swamp National Park, and five historic sites are located near the town of Hopkins, SC:

- Barber House, 1890s single dwelling, off State Highway S.C. 37, Hopkins vicinity
- Bridge Abutments, Address Restricted, Hopkins vicinity
- Dead River Dike, Address Restricted, Hopkins vicinity
- Northwest Boundary Dike, Address Restricted, Hopkins vicinity
- Southwest Boundary Dike, Address Restricted, Hopkins vicinity

The South Carolina Department of Archives and History considers five other sites, located within 8 km [5 mi] of CFFF, to have historical significance (WEC, 2004):

- Raiford's Mill Creek (Mill Creek)
- Cabin Branch (John Hopkins, Jr. Plantation House)—circa 1786 dwelling
- Clayton House—1887 dwelling
- Chappell Cabin Branch (Hicks Plantation House and Garden)—1781 dwelling
- Hopkins Overseers' Dwellings—19th century dwelling

During the recent land sale associated with the South Carolina Electric and Gas substation (see Section 3.1), an onsite historic cemetery was identified on an undeveloped portion of CFFF property. According to the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, the cemetery is the Denley Cemetery which operated from approximately 1900 to 1940 (WEC, 2006b). The cemetery contains approximately 85 graves in an area approximately 2,700 m^2 [29,000 ft^2]. In 2005 the area was fenced off, the shrubs were removed, the existing stones were maintained, and a list of known decedents was compiled."

The NRC's evaluation of impacts to cultural resources, as provided in the draft EA, concludes the following:

> "No change in impacts to regional historic and cultural resources is anticipated because of the Proposed Action. The license renewal does not propose action in undeveloped portions of the site. WEC indicated that the Environmental Protection Guidelines & Checklist used in evaluating configuration management changes to CFFF would be modified to incorporate provisions for protection or mitigation of archeological and historical resources in the event of a future discovery on site (WEC, 2006b)."

To support a timely review of the Westinghouse license renewal application, the NRC staff is requesting that you provide, within 30 days, concurrence regarding the NRC's determination that the proposed action will not adversely effect any cultural resources.

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,

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

Docket No.: 70-1151

License No.: SNM-1107

Enclosure: Figure 1. Geographical Location
of CFFF (Modified From NRC,1995)

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Sincerely,

/RA/

B. Jennifer Davis, Branch Chief
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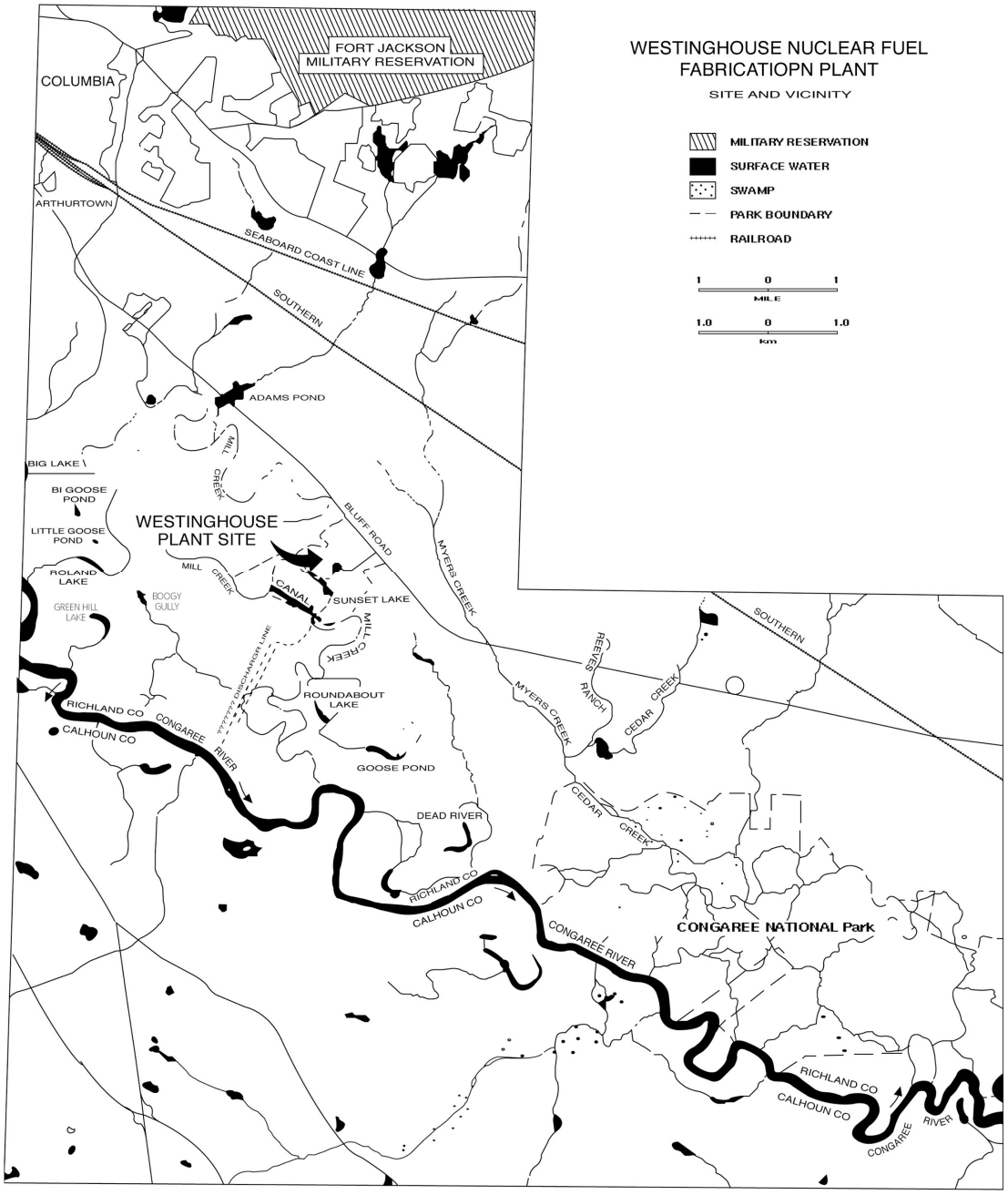
W.

AREA SURROUNDING CFFF



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