

June 13, 2007

Mr. Carlo Popolizio  
New Jersey Field Office  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
927 N. Main Street  
Heritage Square, Building D  
Pleasantville, NJ 08232

SUBJECT: EXPLANATION OF HOPE CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION  
EXTENDED POWER UPRATE AND REQUEST FOR CONCLUSION OF  
INFORMAL CONSULTATION (TAC NO. MC3002)

Dear Mr. Popolizio:

As described in our letter dated December 8, 2006, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is reviewing an application submitted by PSEG Nuclear, LLC for an amendment to the current operating license of Hope Creek Generating Station (HCGS) for an extended power uprate. HCGS is a single-unit nuclear plant located on Artificial Island in Lower Alloways Creek Township, New Jersey. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, NRC is preparing an Environmental Assessment. In this letter, NRC requested that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) provide information regarding protected, proposed, and candidate species and critical habitat under their jurisdiction and that may be in the vicinity of HCGS and its associated transmission lines, pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

In response, the Service issued a letter providing information on bald eagles and stating that an active nest is known to occur in the area. In the same letter, the Service deferred to New Jersey's Endangered and Nongame Species Program (ENSP) regarding bald eagles. In a subsequent telephone conversation, Ms. Kathleen Clark of the ENSP requested that NRC provide additional information regarding the HCGS extended power uprate to better assess the need for consultation, and NRC staff provided the information. We have had no further conversations with Ms. Clark.

The primary concerns for the bald eagle are the risks of changing terrestrial habitat and of affecting prey fish populations from impingement or entrainment due to cooling water intake by the plant. The intake flow would not be changed, and therefore there should be no increase in the risk of impingement and entrainment. To dissipate the additional heat created by the power uprate, the temperature of the plant's cooling water discharge would be slightly elevated, but still within the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits 24-hour average temperature limit of 97.1°F. Therefore, there are no anticipated effects related to discharge. In addition, no changes to transmission lines would be needed, so no terrestrial effects are anticipated. The HCGS has had no takes of bald eagles.

C. Popolizio

-2-

Because the intake flow of HCGS would remain the same after the extended power uprate, the cooling water intake structure would not change, and transmission lines would remain the same, NRC staff anticipates no alteration to the risk for bald eagles.

This letter requests conclusion of the informal consultation on bald eagles.

If you have any additional questions or concerns regarding the NRC staff's review of this license amendment application, please contact Mr. Dennis Logan, Aquatic Biologist, at 301-415-0490 or via e-mail at [DTL1@nrc.gov](mailto:DTL1@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Eric Benner, Branch Chief  
Environmental Branch A  
Division of License Renewal  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-354

cc: See next page

C. Popolizio

-2-

Because the intake flow of HCGS would remain the same after the extended power uprate, the cooling water intake structure would not change, and transmission lines would remain the same, NRC staff anticipates no alteration to the risk for bald eagles.

This letter requests conclusion of the informal consultation on bald eagles.

If you have any additional questions or concerns regarding the NRC staff's review of this license amendment application, please contact Mr. Dennis Logan, Aquatic Biologist, at 301-415-0490 or via e-mail at [DTL1@nrc.gov](mailto:DTL1@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Eric Benner, Branch Chief  
Environmental Branch A  
Division of License Renewal  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-354

cc: See next page

**Accession No.:** ML071410315

OFFICE	DLR:REBA:AB	DLR:LA	DLR:REBA:ES	DLR:REBA:PM	DLR:REBA:BC
NAME	D. Logan	I. King	H. Nash	A. Luu	E. Benner
DATE	05/30/07	05/23/07	06/08/07	06/11/07	06/13/07

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Letter to C. Popolizio from E. Benner dated June 13, 2007

SUBJECT: EXPLANATION OF HOPE CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION  
EXTENDED POWER UPRATE AND REQUEST FOR CONCLUSION OF  
INFORMAL CONSULTATION (TAC NO. MC3002)

DISTRIBUTION:

E-mail  
D. Logan  
E. Wexler  
H. Nash  
A. Luu  
E. Benner  
J. Shea

Hope Creek Generating Station

cc:

Mr. Dennis Winchester  
Vice President - Nuclear Assessments  
PSEG Nuclear  
P.O. Box 236  
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Mr. George P. Barnes  
Site Vice President - Hope Creek  
PSEG Nuclear  
P.O. Box 236  
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Mr. George H. Gellrich  
Plant Support Manager  
PSEG Nuclear  
P.O. Box 236  
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Mr. Michael J. Massaro  
Plant Manager - Hope Creek  
PSEG Nuclear  
P.O. Box 236  
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Mr. James Mallon  
Manager - Licensing  
200 Exelon Way - KSA 3-E  
Kennett Square, PA 19348

Jeffrie J. Keenan, Esquire  
PSEG Nuclear - N21  
P.O. Box 236  
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Mr. Michael Jesse  
Manager - Regulatory Assurance  
P.O. Box 236  
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Township Clerk  
Lower Alloways Creek Township  
Municipal Building, P.O. Box 157  
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Mr. Paul Bauldauf, P.E., Asst. Director  
Radiation Protection Programs  
NJ Department of Environmental  
Protection and Energy  
CN 415  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0415

Mr. Brian Beam  
Board of Public Utilities  
2 Gateway Center, Tenth Floor  
Newark, NJ 07102

Regional Administrator, Region I  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
475 Allendale Road  
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Senior Resident Inspector  
Hope Creek Generating Station  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Drawer 0509  
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

