

January 4, 2008

David Bernhart  
NOAA Fisheries  
Southeastern Regional Office  
263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION REGARDING ENDANGERED OR THREATENED SPECIES AND CRITICAL HABITAT FOR THE PROPOSED 40-YEAR LICENSE RENEWAL FOR GLOBAL NUCLEAR FUEL – AMERICAS, L.L.C., IN WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

Dear Mr. Bernhart:

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has received an application from Global Nuclear Fuel – Americas, L.L.C. (GNF-A) to renew its NRC License SNM-1097 for a forty-year term (proposed action). The primary purpose of the GNF-A facility in Wilmington, N.C. is the manufacture of fuel assemblies for commercial nuclear reactors. The GNF-A site is situated on a 1,664-acre tract of land, located on Highway 133 and approximately six miles north of the City of Wilmington, North Carolina in New Hanover County (Enclosure 1). The facility address is 3901 Castle Hayne Road.

As established in Title 10 Code of Federal Regulations Part 51 (10 CFR 51), the NRC regulation that implements the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the NRC is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed action. In accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the EA will include an analysis of potential impacts to endangered or threatened species or critical habitat in the action area. To support the environmental review, the NRC is requesting input from NOAA Fisheries to facilitate the identification of endangered or threatened species or critical habitat that may be affected by a renewal of the GNF-A license. Any input you provide will be used to enhance the scope and quality of our review in accordance with 10 CFR 51 and 50 CFR 402. After reviewing all the information collected, the NRC will prepare a draft EA and will provide your office an opportunity to comment.

The GNF-A license renewal application (LRA) is publicly available in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR) located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, 20852, or from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). The ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room is accessible at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. The accession number for the LRA is ML071000128.

Please submit any comments/information that you have regarding this environmental review by January 31, 2008. 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](mailto:jam7@nrc.gov). Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

**SFlanders for /RA/**

Gregory F. Suber, 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.: 70-1113

License No.: SNM- 1097

Enclosure:  
Map Location of NGF-A

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Map Location of NGF-A

**ML073620398**

OFC	EPPAD/ERB	EPPAD/ERB	EPPAD/ERB
NAME	JMoore	CWalls	GSuber
DATE	12/29/07	1/2/08	1/2/08

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Enclosure 1: Location of GNF-A

