

February 29, 2008

Ms. Patricia Kurkul
Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Regional Office
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

SUBJECT: PARTIAL APPLICATION FOR A COMBINED LICENSE FOR CALVERT CLIFFS
NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, UNIT 3

Dear Ms. Kurkul:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing Part 1 of a partial application submitted by UniStar Nuclear Energy (UniStar) for a combined license (COL) to construct and operate one new nuclear power plant at the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant (CCNPP) site near Lusby, Maryland. As part of the review of this COL partial application, the NRC is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) as required by Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 51 (10 CFR Part 51), the NRC's regulation that implements the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA). The EIS will include an analysis of pertinent environmental issues, including endangered or threatened species and impacts to fish and wildlife. This letter is being submitted under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934, as amended, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996.

The CCNPP site is located in Calvert County, Maryland on approximately 2,000 acres on the west bank of the Chesapeake Bay, approximately halfway between the mouth of the bay and its headwaters at the Susquehanna River. The site is approximately 40 miles southeast of Washington, D.C. and 7.5 miles north of Solomons, Maryland. The CCNPP site currently has two operating pressurized water reactors that have a combined capacity to generate 1,700 megawatts of electricity. UniStar plans to construct one new nuclear unit adjacent to the two existing units. UniStar also has identified three alternative sites that will be evaluated in the EIS. The NRC staff will evaluate the environmental impacts of construction and operation of the proposed nuclear unit and will also consider alternatives to the proposed action, including evaluation of the alternative sites. The proposed cooling system consists of a mechanical draft wet cooling tower. Approximately 43,480 gallon per minute would be taken from Chesapeake Bay to make up losses from evaporation, blowdown, drift, and desalinization. Such withdrawal is roughly four percent of the current withdrawal for one of the existing two operating units. Blowdown from the cooling tower would be discharged into a retention basin where chemical treatment may occur before discharge to the Chesapeake Bay.

UniStar submitted Part 1 of the partial application for the COL on July 13, 2007, pursuant to NRC requirements of 10 CFR Part 52 and 10 CFR Part 2.101(a)(5). UniStar submitted supplemental information on July 16, 2007, August 2, 2007, September 11, 2007, October 30, 2007, and December 14, 2007. The partial application, as supplemented, was accepted for docketing on January 31, 2008. Part 1 of the partial application and the supplemental

information are available through the web-based version of the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System, which can be found at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. The partial application and supplemental information are listed under accession number ML080380471. The CCNPP COL partial application and supplemental information are also available on the Internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-licensing/col/calvert-cliffs.html>.

To support the EIS preparation process and to ensure compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the NRC requests a list of endangered, threatened, candidate, and proposed species, and designated and proposed critical habitat that may be in the vicinity of the CCNPP site, which are under the jurisdiction of the National Marine Fisheries Service. In support of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the NRC also requests a list of Federally managed species that have designated essential fish habitat in the vicinity of the CCNPP site. Additionally, please provide any information you consider appropriate under the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

The NRC staff plans to hold two public NEPA scoping meetings on March 19, 2008, at the Holiday Inn Select, 155 Holiday Drive, Solomons, Maryland 20688. The first meeting will convene at 1:00 p.m. and will continue until 4:00 p.m., as necessary. The second meeting will convene at 7:00 p.m., with a repeat of the overview portions of the first meeting and will continue until 10:00 p.m., as necessary. In addition, during the week of March 17, 2008, the NRC plans to conduct a site audit to discuss the background details of the preparation of the environmental report, to perform a walk down of the site and environs, and to review documentation. You and your staff are invited to attend both the public meetings and the site audit. Your office will receive a copy of the draft EIS along with a request for comments. The anticipated publication date for the draft EIS is March 2009.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the Environmental Project Manager for the CCNPP COL project, Mr. Thomas Fredrichs, at (301) 415-5971 or via tlf@nrc.gov, or Ms. Laura Quinn at (301) 415-2220 or lmq1@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard P. Raione, Chief
Environment Projects Branch 2
Division of Site and Environmental Reviews
Office of New Reactors

Docket No.: 52-016

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Sincerely,

Richard P. Raione, Chief
 Environment Projects Branch 2
 Division of Site and Environmental Reviews
 Office of New Reactors

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ACCESSION NUMBER NO. : ML080370414 *See Previous Concurrence

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