

February 29, 2008

Mr. Dan Murphy  
Deputy Field Supervisor (Acting)  
Chesapeake Bay Field Office  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
177 Admiral Cochrane Drive  
Annapolis, MD 21401

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR LIST OF PROTECTED SPECIES WITHIN THE AREA UNDER  
EVALUATION FOR THE CALVERT CLIFFS NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, UNIT 3  
COMBINED LICENSE PARTIAL APPLICATION

Dear Mr. Murphy:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing Part 1 of a partial application submitted by UniStar Nuclear (UniStar) for a combined license (COL) for construction and operation of one new nuclear power plant at its 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 (NEPA) of 1969, as amended. 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, and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934, as amended.

The CCNPP site is located on approximately 2,000 acres in Calvert County, Maryland, approximately 40 miles southeast of Washington, D.C. and 7.5 miles north of Solomons, Maryland, along the western bank of the Chesapeake Bay approximately halfway between the mouth of the bay and its headwaters at the Susquehanna River. The CCNPP site currently has two operating pressurized water reactors (Units 1 and 2) that have the combined capacity to generate 1,700 MW of electricity. UniStar plans to construct a new nuclear unit in a previously disturbed area of the site that was once part of a youth camp. The site of the new unit also includes areas of abandoned or re-forested farmland. The CCNPP site is zoned for a combination of light industrial, and farm and forest district uses. The proposed site for Unit 3 is zoned urban/built-up, and the proposed switchyard and cooling tower are zoned forest. The applicant plans to construct one new 500-kV substation to transmit power from CCNPP Unit 3 and two new 500-kV, 3500-MVA circuits connecting the CCNPP Unit 3 substation to the existing CCNPP Units 1 and 2 substations. The applicant has indicated that no additional transmission corridors or off-site land use would be needed. UniStar plans to use a closed-cycle wet cooling system to remove waste heat during power operation of CCNPP Unit 3. Unistar plans to withdraw makeup water for this unit from the Chesapeake Bay through pumps installed in a new intake structure located next to the south end of the existing CCNPP Units 1 and 2 intake structures.

Waste heat is generated and dissipated to the atmosphere through a single non-plume-abated mechanical draft cooling tower. Blowdown from the cooling tower discharges to a common retention basin prior to discharge to the Chesapeake Bay.

UniStar submitted part 1 of a partial application for the COL on July 13, 2007, pursuant to NRC requirements at 10 CFR Part 52 and 10 CFR 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, and is available on the public website and through the web-based version of the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), which can be found at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. The partial application and subsequent supplemental information are listed in ADAMS under the accession number ML080380471. The CCNPP COL partial application and subsequent 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 staff requests information on Federally-listed, proposed, and candidate species and critical habitat that may be in the vicinity of the CCNPP site and the associated transmission line rights-of-way. In addition, please provide any information you consider appropriate under the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. UniStar has identified three alternative sites that will be evaluated in the EIS. In its review the NRC will evaluate the environmental impacts of construction and operation of proposed CCNPP Unit 3 and will also consider alternatives, including alternative sites.

The NRC staff plans to hold two identical 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. 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 concerning the NRC staff's review of this COL partial application, please contact Mr. Thomas L. Fredrichs, Environmental Project Manager at 301-415-0673 or by e-mail at [tlf@nrc.gov](mailto:tlf@nrc.gov), or Ms. Laura Quinn at 301-415-2220 or [lmq1@nrc.gov](mailto:lmq1@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

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

Docket No.: 52-016

cc: See next page

retention basin to provide retention time for settling of suspended solids, and to permit further chemical treatment of the wastewater, if required, prior to discharge to the Chesapeake Bay.

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Richard P. Raione, Branch Chief  
Environmental Projects Branch 2  
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RDurham ([robin.durham@pnl.gov](mailto:robin.durham@pnl.gov))

MParkhurst ([maryann.parkhurst@pnl.gov](mailto:maryann.parkhurst@pnl.gov))

RKropp ([roy.kropp@pnl.gov](mailto:roy.kropp@pnl.gov))

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**ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML080390482 \* See Previous Concurrence**

OFFICE	GS:RAP2:DSER :NRO	LA:RAP2:DSER :NRO	PM:RAP2:DSER: NRO	OGC	BC:RAP2:DSER: NRO
NAME	LQuinn*	ARedden*	TFredrichs	RWeisman*	RRaione
DATE	02/26 /08	02/ 14 /08	02/ /08	02/ 26 /08	02/ 29 /08

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COL UniStar Nuclear - Calvert Cliffs Mailing List

cc:

Mr. Richard L. Baker  
Bechtel Power Corporation  
5275 Westview Drive  
Frederick, MD 21703-8306

Ms. Patricia T. Birnie, Esquire  
Co-Director  
Maryland Safe Energy Coalition  
P. O. Box 33111  
Baltimore, MD 21218

Ms. Michele Boyd  
Legislative Director  
Energy Program  
Public Citizens Critical Mass Energy  
and Environmental Program  
215 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20003

Ms. Kristen A. Burger  
Maryland People's Counsel  
6 St. Paul Centre  
Suite 2102  
Baltimore, MD 21202-1631

W. Craig Conklin, Director  
Chemical and Nuclear Preparedness &  
Protection Division (CNPPD)  
Office of Infrastructure Protection  
Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Mr. Marvin Fertel  
Senior Vice President  
and Chief Nuclear Officer  
Nuclear Energy Institute  
1776 I Street, NW  
Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Mr. Carey Fleming, Esquire  
Senior Counsel - Nuclear Generation  
Constellation Generation Group, LLC  
750 East Pratt Street, 17th Floor  
Baltimore, MD 21202

Mr. Jay S. Gaines  
Director, Licensing  
Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant  
1650 Calvert Cliffs Parkway  
Lusby, MD 20657-4702

Mr. Ray Ganthner  
AREVA, Framatome ANP, Inc.  
3315 Old Forest Road  
P.O. Box 10935  
Lynchburg, VA 24506-0935

Mr. Brian Hastings  
Public Utility Commission  
William B. Travis Building  
P.O. Box 13326  
1701 Noth Congress Avenue  
Austin, TX 78701-3326

Mr. Roy Hickok  
NRC Technical Training Center  
5700 Brainerd Road  
Chattanooga, TN 37411-4017

Arjun Makhijani  
IEER  
6935 Laurel Ave., Suite 201  
Takoma Park, MD 20912

Mr. Norris McDonald  
AAEA  
9903 Caltor Lane  
Ft. Washington, MD 20744

Mr. R. I. McLean  
Nuclear Programs  
Power Plant Research Program  
Maryland Department of Natural Resources  
580 Taylor Avenue (B wing, 3rd floor)  
Tawes State Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Charles Peterson  
Pillsbury, Winthrop, Shaw & Pittman, LLP  
2300 "N" Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20037

President  
Calvert County Board of Commissioners  
175 Main Street  
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Vanessa E. Quinn, Acting Director  
Technological Hazards Division  
National Preparedness Directorate  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20472

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

Resident Inspector  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
P. O. Box 287  
St. Leonard, MD 20685

Mr. David W. Sutherland  
Chesapeake Bay Field Office  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
177 Admiral Cochrane Drive  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Email

APH@NEI.org (Adrian Heymer)  
 awc@nei.org (Anne W. Cottingham)  
 barbara.perdue@unistarnuclear.com (Barbara Perdue)  
 bennettS2@bv.com (Steve A. Bennett)  
 bob.brown@ge.com (Robert E. Brown)  
 BrinkmCB@westinghouse.com (Charles Brinkman)  
 carey.fleming@constellation.com (Carey Fleming)  
 chris.maslak@ge.com (Chris Maslak)  
 cwaltman@roe.com (C. Waltman)  
 david.lewis@pillsburylaw.com (David Lewis)  
 dlochbaum@UCSUSA.org (David Lochbaum)  
 eddie.grant@excelservices.com (Eddie Grant)  
 FAlexander@sha.state.md.us (Felicia Alexander)  
 frankq@hursttech.com (Frank Quinn)  
 greshaja@westinghouse.com (James Gresham)  
 gzinke@entergy.com (George Alan Zinke)  
 jcurtiss@winston.com (Jim Curtiss)  
 jgutierrez@morganlewis.com (Jay M. Gutierrez)  
 jim.riccio@wdc.greenpeace.org (James Riccio)  
 JNesrsta@cpsenergy.com (James J. Nesrsta)  
 John.O'Neill@pillsburylaw.com (John O'Neill)  
 john.price@unistarnuclear.com (John Price)  
 Joseph\_Hegner@dom.com (Joseph Hegner)  
 KSutton@morganlewis.com (Kathryn M. Sutton)  
 kwaugh@impact-net.org (Kenneth O. Waugh)  
 lois@ieer.org (Lois Chalmers)  
 maria.webb@pillsburylaw.com (Maria Webb)  
 mark.beaumont@wsms.com (Mark Beaumont)  
 matias.travieso-diaz@pillsburylaw.com (Matias Travieso-Diaz)  
 media@nei.org (Scott Peterson)  
 mike\_moran@fpl.com (Mike Moran)  
 nirsnet@nirs.org (Michael Mariotte)  
 patriciaL.campbell@ge.com (Patricia L. Campbell)  
 paul.gaukler@pillsburylaw.com (Paul Gaukler)  
 Paul@beyondnuclear.org (Paul Gunter)  
 phinnen@entergy.com (Paul Hinnenkamp)  
 pshastings@duke-energy.com (Peter Hastings)  
 RJB@NEI.org (Russell Bell)  
 RKTemple@cpsenergy.com (R.K. Temple)  
 roberta.swain@ge.com (Roberta Swain)  
 rod.krich@unistarnuclear.com (Mr. Rod Krich)  
 sandra.sloan@areva.com (Sandra Sloan)  
 sfrantz@morganlewis.com (Stephen P. Frantz)  
 tkkibler@scana.com (Tria Kibler)  
 trsmith@winston.com (Tyson Smith)  
 VictorB@bv.com (Bill Victor)  
 Wanda.K.Marshall@dom.com  
 waraksre@westinghouse.com (Rosemarie E. Waraks)