

May 27, 2008

Mr. Don Klima, Director  
Office of Federal Agency Programs  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
Old Post Office Building  
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 809  
Washington, DC 20004

SUBJECT: SHEARON HARRIS NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, UNITS 2 AND 3 COMBINED  
LICENSE APPLICATION REVIEW

Dear Mr. Klima:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing an application submitted by the Progress Energy Carolinas, Inc. (PEC) for a combined license (COL) for construction and operation of two new nuclear power plants at its Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant (HAR) site in the southwestern corner of Wake County, North Carolina. As part of the review of this COL application, the NRC is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) as required by Title 10, Part 51 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, the NRC's regulation that implements the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. The NRC staff is currently seeking information from consulting parties and other individuals and organizations likely to have knowledge of, or concerns with, historic properties in the area to identify issues relating to the proposed undertaking's potential effects on historic properties.

The HAR Site is located in the southwestern corner of Wake County, North Carolina, with portions located in southeastern Chatham County. The city of Raleigh, North Carolina, is approximately 34.9 kilometers (km) (21.7 miles [mi]) northeast of the site and the city of Sanford, North Carolina is approximately 26.5 km (16.5 mi) southwest of the site. The HAR Site is located just northwest of the existing Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant on a peninsula that extends into Harris Reservoir. PEC plans to construct two new nuclear units northwest of the existing site. PEC submitted the application for COL on February 18, 2008, pursuant to NRC requirements in 10 CFR Part 52. The application was accepted for docketing on April 23, 2008, and is available through the web-based version of the NRC's Agency-wide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), which can be found at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. The Environmental Report is listed under accession number ML080601078. The HAR COL application is also available on the Internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-licensing/col/harris.html>.

In accordance with 36 CFR 800.8(c), the NRC staff is using the NEPA process to comply with the obligations imposed under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended. Accordingly, the staff has identified parties who may wish to consult with the staff in this regard and invited them to consult with the NRC staff on this matter. Consultation will include participation in the scoping process; identification of historic properties on the HAR Site; assessment of the effects of the proposed action on any historic properties identified; and development of alternatives and proposed measures that might avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects of the proposed action on historic properties. The EIS will include analyses of potential impacts to historic properties and will document the NRC staff's determination regarding the suitability of the proposed site for the construction and operation of one or more new nuclear plants. PEC also has identified three alternative sites that will be evaluated in the EIS.

The staff's review will consider alternatives, including evaluation of alternative sites. To complete consultation under 36 CFR §800.8(c), the NRC staff will forward the draft EIS to consulting parties for review and comment and will address the comments in the final EIS. Your office will receive a copy of the draft EIS along with a request for comments after it is issued. This draft EIS will include identification of historic properties, assessment of impacts, and our preliminary determination. The anticipated publication date for the draft EIS is June 2009.

On Tuesday, June 10, 2008, the NRC is providing the public with the opportunity to participate in the environmental scoping meetings to be held from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., and 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at Holly Springs Cultural Center, 300 West Ballentine Street, Holly Springs, NC 27540. Both meetings will be preceded by open houses from 11:30 p.m. to 12:30 p.m., and 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., during which members of the public may meet and talk with NRC staff members on an informal basis. You and your staff are invited to attend.

Please submit any written comments your office may have to offer on the scope of the environmental review by July 25, 2008. Comments should be submitted either by mail to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Mail Stop T-6D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001 or via e-mail to [Harris.COLEIS@nrc.gov](mailto:Harris.COLEIS@nrc.gov).

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Dr. Donald Palmrose, Environmental Project Manager at (301) 415-3803 or by e-mail at [donald.palmrose@nrc.gov](mailto:donald.palmrose@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

William Burton, Branch Chief  
Environmental Projects Branch 1  
Division of Site and Environmental Reviews  
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos.: 52-022 and 52-023

cc: See next page

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Sincerely,

William Burton, Branch Chief  
Environmental Projects Branch 1  
Division of Site and Environmental Reviews  
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos.: 52-022 and 52-023

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ADAMS Accession No.: **ML081350284**

**\*See previous concurrences**

| OFFICE | LA:RAP1:DSER:NRO  | PM:RAP1:DSER:NRO | PM:RAP1:DSER:NRO   | OGC (NLO w/comments/) | BC:RAP1:DSER:NRO |
|--------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
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| DATE   | 05/14/08          | 05/ 21/08        | 05/21/08           | 05/22/08              | 05/27/08         |

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(Revised 03/03/2008)

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