

May 29, 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: GRAND GULF NUCLEAR STATION COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION
REVIEW

Dear Mr. Klima:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing an application submitted by Entergy Operations Inc. (EOI) for a combined license (COL) for construction and operation of a new nuclear power plant at its Grand Gulf Nuclear Station (GGNS) site in Claiborne County, Mississippi. As part of the review of this COL application, the NRC is preparing a supplemental environmental impact statement (EIS) as required by Part 51 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), the NRC's regulation that implements the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA). Accordingly, the NRC staff is inviting you to consult with us regarding the proposed action and to otherwise provide input to the scoping process relating to the NRC's environmental review of the EOI COL application.

EOI submitted the application for COL by letter dated February 27, 2008, pursuant to NRC requirements in 10 CFR Part 52. The application was accepted for docketing on April 24, 2008, and is available through the web-based version of the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access Management System (ADAMS), which can be found at <http://www.nrc.gov/readingrm/adams.html>. The application is listed under ADAMS accession number ML080640433. The EOI COL application is also available on the Internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-licensing/col/grand-gulf.html>. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS should contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff by telephone at either (800) 397-4209 or (301) 415-4737, or via e-mail at pdr@nrc.gov. In addition, the Harriette Person Memorial Library, 606 Main Street, Port Gibson, Mississippi (phone number (601) 437-5787) has agreed to make the environmental report available for public inspection.

The proposed new reactor, GGNS Unit 3, would be located within a 2,100-acre site, situated approximately 6 miles northwest of Port Gibson, Mississippi (see enclosed map). EOI currently operates one reactor, GGNS Unit 1, on the site, and plans to construct an additional reactor (designated as Unit 3) adjacent to the existing reactor. The construction site cleared or disturbed for GGNS Unit 3 covers approximately 234 acres within EOI's 2,100-acre site. The area of potential effect for this COL review is the area at the GGNS Unit 3 site and its immediate environs which may be impacted by land-disturbing activities associated with the construction and operation of the new unit. An additional area of potential interest with respect to cumulative

impacts of the proposed action is the anticipated 200-foot widening of an existing transmission corridor that crosses the Natchez Trace Parkway approximately 23 miles southeast of Vicksburg, Mississippi (see enclosed map).

On April 5, 2007, the NRC issued an early site permit (ESP) for the GGNS ESP site, which is the site proposed for Unit 3. An ESP is a NRC Commission approval of a site as suitable for construction and operation of one or more new nuclear units. During the ESP environmental review, the NRC consulted with various Federal, state, local, and tribal entities. The NRC's detailed review of the environmental impacts of constructing and operating a new nuclear unit is documented in NUREG-1817, "Environmental Impact Statement for an [ESP] at the Grand Gulf ESP Site" which is available under ADAMS accession number ML060900037. Pursuant to NRC regulations in 10 CFR 51.50(c), a COL applicant referencing an ESP need not submit information or analyses regarding environmental issues that were resolved in the ESP EIS, except to the extent the COL applicant has identified new and significant information regarding such issues. Pursuant to 10 CFR 52.39, matters resolved in the ESP proceedings are considered to be resolved in any subsequent proceedings, absent identification of new and significant information.

In accordance with 36 CFR 800.8(c), the NRC is using the process required by NEPA to comply with the obligations imposed by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA), in lieu of the procedures set forth in 36 CFR 800.3 through 800.6. Accordingly, the NRC staff is identifying parties who may wish to consult with the staff on the proposed action and is inviting them to consult with the NRC staff on this matter. Consultation will include participation in the scoping process and identification of new and significant information regarding the ESP EIS discussion of historic properties on the GGNS Unit 3 site; the effects of the proposed action on those historic properties; and the alternatives and proposed measures that might avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects of the proposed action on historic properties. The COL EIS will include analyses of any new and significant information relating to potential impacts to historic properties and will document the NRC staff's determination regarding the environmental effects of construction and operation of a new nuclear power plant on the site. The NRC staff will involve the public in this process in accordance with the NRC procedures in 10 CFR Part 51. To complete consultation under 36 CFR 800.8, the NRC will forward the draft EIS to consulting parties for review and comment, and will address the comments in the final EIS. The anticipated publication date for the draft EIS is March 2009.

On Thursday, June 19, 2008, the NRC is providing the public with two opportunities to participate in environmental scoping meetings. The meetings will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., at the Port Gibson City Hall, 1005 College Drive, Port Gibson, Mississippi. Both meetings will be preceded by a one hour open house (12:00 to 1:00 pm and 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., respectively), during which members of the public may meet and talk with NRC staff members on an informal basis. You are cordially invited to attend either session.

As part of your office's participation in the scoping process, please submit any written comments you may have to offer on the scope of the environmental review by July 29, 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 GrandGulf.COLAEIS@nrc.gov.

D. Kilma

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If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact NRC environmental project managers Tamsen (Tami) Dozier by telephone at (301) 415-2272 or via e-mail at tamsen.dozier@nrc.gov, or Paul Michalak at telephone (301) 415-7612 or via e-mail at paul.michalak@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

Enclosure:
As stated

Docket No.: 52-024

cc: See next page

D. Kilma

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If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact NRC environmental project managers Tamsen (Tami) Dozier by telephone at (301) 415-2272 or via e-mail at tamsen.dozier@nrc.gov, or Paul Michalak at telephone (301) 415-7612 or via e-mail at paul.michalak@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

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Enclosure

Docket No.: 52-024

cc: See next page

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