May 29, 2008

Ms. Adrianne Clark
Mississippi Natural Heritage Program
Mississippi Museum of Natural Science
2148 Riverside Drive
Jackson, MS 39202

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR LIST OF PROTECTED SPECIES WITHIN THE AREA UNDER EVALUATION FOR THE GRAND GULF NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 3 COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION

Dear Ms. Clark:

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 (NEPA), as amended. The COL EIS will supplement the NRC staff's determination regarding the environmental effects of construction and operation of a new nuclear power plant on the GGNS site. The COL EIS will include an analysis of pertinent environmental issues including threatened or endangered species and impacts to fish and wildlife. To support the EIS preparation process, the NRC requests information on State-listed, proposed, and candidate species and critical habitat that may be in the vicinity of the GGNS site. In addition, to fulfill consultation requirements as required by the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA), please provide any information you consider appropriate under the provisions of the FWCA.

Provided below is some background information on the proposed GGNS new reactor site, general information concerning previous environmental findings associated with the GGNS early site permit, availability of pertinent documents, planned public scoping meetings for the COL EIS, and NRC contact information.

The proposed new reactor, GGNS Unit 3, would be located within a 2,100-acre site, situated approximately six 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 2 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, MS (see enclosure).

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.

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. 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.

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. In addition, during the week of June 16, 2008, the NRC plans to conduct a GGNS Unit 3 site audit in Jackson, Mississippi. You are invited to attend both the public meetings and the site audit.

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.

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 Raione, Branch Chief
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Division of Site and Environmental Reviews
Office of New Reactors

Docket No.: 52-024

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: See next page

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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Docket No.: 52-024

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: See next page

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