July 30, 2008

Ms. Linda Pearsall, Program Director
North Carolina Natural Heritage Program
1601 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING PROCESS AND LIST OF RARE, THREATENED, OR ENDANGERED SPECIES WITHIN THE AREA UNDER EVALUATION FOR THE SHEARON HARRIS NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, UNITS 2 AND 3 COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION REVIEW

Dear Ms. Pearsall:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing an application submitted by Progress Energy Carolinas, Inc. (PEC) for the 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 of 1969. The EIS includes an analysis of pertinent environmental issues including endangered or threatened species and impacts to fish and wildlife. This letter is intended to fulfill consultation requirements as required by the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) of 1934, as amended.

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 HAR Plant on a peninsula that extends into Harris Reservoir. PEC plans to construct two new nuclear units on-site in an area previously disturbed with a portion extending into an undeveloped wooded area. The site is zoned as industrial. The construction and operation of HAR, Units 2 and 3 affects approximately 192 acres where most of this land was previously disturbed from the construction and operation of the existing site. Approximately 440 acres of the site is developed land (by U.S. Geological Survey definition) for the existing site and most of this developed land consists of parking lots, roads, buildings, cooling towers, and other structures. The remainder of the site is primarily made up of the Harris Reservoir, forested land, pastures, shrub coverage, and other vegetation. The applicant plans to use the existing transmission lines.

PEC plans to use a closed-cycle cooling system to remove waste heat during power operation for HAR, Units 2 and 3. Makeup water for these units is planned to be withdrawn from the Harris Reservoir through new intake structures. Waste heat is dissipated to the atmosphere through natural draft cooling towers. Blow-down from the

closed cycle cooling system is released to the deepest portion of the Harris Resevoir via a pipeline to be installed in parallel with the existing blow-down pipeline for the existing site. Makeup water for the Harris Reservoir is planned to be withdrawn as needed from the Cape Fear River using an intake structure and pump house to be constructed on the eastern shore of the river just upstream of the Buckhorn Dam. A pipeline would be constructed over existing rights-of-way to transport the makeup water from the Cape Fear River to the Harris Reservoir.

PEC submitted the application for the COL on February 18, 2008, pursuant to NRC requirements of 10 CFR Part 52. The application was accepted for docketing on April 23, 2008, and is available on the public website and through the web-based version of 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.

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 HAR Site and the in Wake, Chatham, Lee, Harnett, and Cumberland Counties. In addition, please provide any information you consider appropriate under the provisions of the FWCA. NRC will evaluate the environmental impacts of construction and operation and will also consider alternatives including alternative sites. The NRC Environmental Project Manager, Dr. Donald Palmrose plans to coordinate with your staff to set up a discussion on alternative sites. Please provide my staff with a contact name for this purpose.

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 June 2009.

If you have any questions concerning the NRC staff's review of this COL application, please contact Dr. Donald Palmrose, Environmental Project Manager at 301-415-3803 or via e-mail at donald.palmrose@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/ Richard Raione for

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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Docket Nos.: 52-022 and 52-023
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