



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

September 22, 2008

Chief, Rulemaking, Directives and Editing Branch
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop T6-D59
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

8/21/08

43 FR 49496

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RULES AND DIRECTIVES
BRANCH
USNRC

**RE: EPA Review and Comments on
Final Generic Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FGSEIS)
License Renewal of Nuclear Power Plants
Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 1
Plant-specific supplement 33 to NUREG-1437
CEQ No. 20080325**

Dear Sir:

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 4, reviewed the Final Generic Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FGSEIS), pursuant to Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and Section 102 (2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The purpose of this letter is to provide the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) with EPA's comments regarding potential impacts of the renewal of the operating license (OL) for the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 1.

The proposed action of renewing the OL for a 20-year period would maximize the use of existing assets. The facility uses two intakes to withdraw water from the Harris Reservoir and the auxiliary reservoir for plant cooling, and discharges wastewater via outfalls to this reservoir and to a sewage treatment plant.

We appreciate your responses to our Draft GSEIS comments in Appendix A of the FGSEIS. Based on the FGSEIS, environmental concerns about the project will need to be addressed as the project proceeds. Specifically, there is a continuing requirement for appropriate storage and ultimate disposition of radioactive wastes generated on-site, as well as continuing measures to limit bioentrainment and other impacts to aquatic species from surface water withdrawals and discharges, and compliance with the NPDES Permit. The NPDES permittee has operated and is currently operating in compliance with the NPDES permit requirements. The FGSEIS acknowledges that continuing radiological monitoring of all plant effluents and appropriate storage of spent fuel assemblies and radioactive wastes on-site are required for this project, in order to prevent impacts.

In the Waste Confidence Rule (10 CFR 51.23), the Commission generically determined that the spent fuel generated by any reactor can be safely stored onsite for at least 30 years

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beyond the licensed operating life of the reactor. Ultimately, long-term radioactive waste disposition will require transportation of wastes to a permitted repository site.

In conclusion, the FGSEIS is clearly written and provides useful information for assessment of the proposal to renew the OL for Unit 1. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please send us a copy of the Record of Decision for our project files. If we can be of further assistance, please contact Ramona McConney of my staff at (404) 562-9615.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Mueller", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Heinz J. Mueller, Chief
NEPA Program Office