

Habitat Conservation Division  
Chesapeake Bay Program Office  
410 Severn Ave., Suite 107A  
Annapolis, Maryland 21403

October 3, 2008

MEMORANDUM TO: Kathy Anderson  
Baltimore District, Corps of Engineers  
Regulatory, Maryland Permit – South

FROM: John Nichols

SUBJECT: CALVERT CLIFFS NUCLEAR PROJECT

This pertains to Public Notice CENABOP-RMS 2007-08123, and your Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Assessment, dated September 3, 2008, for the proposal by Unistar Nuclear Operating Services to perform site preparation activities and construct supporting facilities at the site of a proposed 1,710 MW nuclear power generation station (Unit 3).

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the lead Federal Agency for this proposal, is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for work associated with the expansion of the power plant facilities. The EIS will contain information important to our ability to make a comprehensive review of the project's impacts on National Marine Fisheries Service resources. Therefore, we wish to defer our final comments on this proposal until following our review of the EIS.

Based on our participation, to date, in the scoping process for this proposal, we have identified several issues of concern, which will be addressed further in our final comments. These issues are as follows.

1. The proposed new Unit 3 intake, relative to its impact from impingement and entrainment of adult, juvenile, and planktonic stages finfish and crustaceans, and other forms of local meroplankton.
2. The proposed new discharge pipe, relative to impacts on benthic habitat during installation, and the thermal quality of its effluent.
3. Restoration of a barge unloading facility, including maintenance and new dredging of an entrance channel, relative to impacts on benthic habitat and natural oyster bar.
4. Nontidal wetland and stream impacts (permanent and temporary) resulting from construction of the new Unit 3 facility and associated infrastructure.

I will be looking forward to further coordination with your agency and NRC, prior to, and following our forthcoming review of the EIS. If you have any questions, please contact me at (410) 267-5675; or, [John.Nichols@NOAA.GOV](mailto:John.Nichols@NOAA.GOV).