February 10, 2009

Mr. David Bernhart
Assistant Regional Administrator for Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING PROCESS AND A LIST OF PROTECTED SPECIES WITHIN THE AREA UNDER EVALUATION FOR THE CALLAWAY PLANT UNIT 2 COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION REVIEW

Dear Mr. Bernhart:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing an application submitted by AmerenUE for a combined license (COL) for construction and operation of a new nuclear reactor unit at its Callaway Plant site near Fulton, MO. As part of the review of this COL application, the NRC staff is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as required by Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 51, the NRC's regulations that implement the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA). The EIS includes an analysis of pertinent environmental matters, including those involving endangered or threatened species and impacts to fish and wildlife. This letter is being submitted under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA), the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934, as amended (FWCA), and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District, is a cooperating agency with the NRC for the purpose of complying with NEPA.

AmerenUE submitted the application for a COL on July 24, 2008, pursuant to the NRC requirements in 10 CFR Part 52. The NRC staff accepted the application for docketing on December 12, 2008. It is available through the web-based version of the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), which can be found at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html. The environmental report portion of the application is listed under accession number ML082520869. The Callaway Plant COL application is also available on the Internet at http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactors/col/callaway.html.

The Callaway Plant site is located on approximately 2,800 acres in Callaway County, Missouri, approximately 10 miles southeast of the city of Fulton on the Missouri River. The Callaway Plant site currently has one operating Westinghouse four-loop pressurized water reactor (PWR), Unit 1, which has the capacity to generate 1,190 megawatts of electricity. AmerenUE plans to build one new nuclear unit, Unit 2, adjacent to the existing unit on a total of about 435 permanent, and 177 temporary, construction acres comprised of forest, cropland, woody/herbaceous, high intensity urban, and impervious land cover areas previously impacted by Unit 1 construction activity (such as laydown yards and parking). The Unit 2 switchyard is proposed for land currently defined as cropland, high intensity urban, and impervious. The

proposed cooling tower area is defined as high intensity urban. AmerenUE has stated there is no need for new transmission line corridors, but there will be the need to expand (widen) some of these corridors and to upgrade parts of the current transmission system.

The proposed cooling system would consist of two major cooling systems. The first would be a Circulating Water System (CWS), which would consists of a closed cycle, wet cooling system using two non-plume abated natural draft cooling towers. The second would be an Essential Service Water System designed to provide cooling water during normal operations and plant shutdown. Approximately 24,160 gallons per minute (gpm) would be taken from the Missouri River/Missouri River Alluvial Aquifer to make up losses from evaporation, blowdown, and drift during normal plant operations. Such withdrawal is roughly 51 percent more than the current withdrawal (e.g., 16,000 gpm) for the existing Callaway Plant Unit 1. A Collector Well River Intake System would replace the existing Callaway Plant Unit 1 intake and would service both Callaway Plant Units 1 and 2. This new system would have a collective yield of about 50,000 gpm and would eliminate entrainment and impingement effects. Waste heat would be dissipated to the atmosphere through the two cooling towers described above. Blowdown from the cooling towers would discharge to a common pipe to combine with discharge from Callaway Plant Unit 1 and then to the Missouri River. Enclosed with this letter are site maps for the proposed site (Callaway), a map of the current and proposed transmission line corridors at Callaway, the alternative sites (candidate sites) map, and maps for each of the alternative sites. Specifically enclosed are the following: 1) Callaway Plant Site Map; 2) Callaway USGS Map; 3) Existing and Proposed Transmission System Map; 4) Potential Alternative Sites Region of Interest Map; 5) Chamois USGS Alternative Site Map; 6) Fred Weber Quarry USGS Alternative Site Map; 7) Lamine USGS Alternative Site Map; and 8) Paynesville USGS Alternative Site Map.

The NRC staff, in its review, will evaluate the environmental impacts of construction and operation of the Callaway Plant Unit 2 and will consider alternatives, including alternative sites. AmerenUE has identified four alternative sites, all located within Missouri. The four alternative sites to be evaluated in the EIS are the Chamois Site located in Osage County, on the south bank of the Missouri River; the Fred Weber Quarry Site located in Lincoln County, approximately 12 miles west of the Mississippi River; the Lamine Site located in Cooper County, about 3 miles south of the Missouri River; and the Paynesville Site located in Lincoln County, about 7.5 miles west of the Mississippi River. The NRC staff will also evaluate impacts from transmission line rights-of-way and site preparation activities, such as land clearing and excavation in cumulative impacts analysis.

To support the preparation of the NRC EIS on the proposed action and to ensure compliance with Section 7 of the ESA, the NRC staff requests that your office provide to the NRC staff a list of endangered, threatened, candidate, and proposed species, and designated and proposed critical habitat under the jurisdiction of National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) that may be in the vicinity of the Callaway Plant site, the associated transmission line rights-of-way, and the alternative sites. In support of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the NRC staff also requests that your office provide to the NRC staff a list of federally managed species that have designated essential fish habitat in the vicinity of the Callaway Plant site. In addition, please provide any comments, concerns, or information you consider appropriate under the provisions of the FWCA.

The NRC plans to hold two public meetings at the Champ Auditorium in Westminster College, 501 Westminster Avenue, Fulton, MO 65251, on Wednesday, February 18, 2009. The first meeting will convene at 1:00 p.m. and will continue until approximately 4:00 p.m. The second

meeting will convene at 6:00 p.m. and will continue until approximately 9:00 p.m. The meetings will be preceded by open houses from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m., and from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., during which time members of the public may meet and talk with NRC staff members on an informal basis. In addition, during the week of March 23-27, 2009, the NRC plans to conduct a site audit to discuss with the applicant the detailed information that is the basis for the preparation of the environmental report (ER), to perform a walk down of the site and its environs, and to review documentation. You and your staff are invited to attend both the public meetings and the site audit.

Please provide any information, comments, or concerns you feel are appropriate on the scope of the proposed action during the scoping comment period, which ends on March 24, 2009. Comments should be submitted either by mail to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Mail Stop TWB-05-B01M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001 or by e-mail to Callaway.COLEIS@nrc.gov. When the NRC staff completes the draft EIS on the proposed action, the staff plans to send the draft EIS to your office for comment. The anticipated publication date for the draft EIS is January 2010.

If you have any questions concerning the NRC staff's environmental review of this COL application, please contact Mr. Bruce Olson, Environmental Project Manager by telephone at 301-415-3731 or by e-mail at bruce.olson@nrc.gov. In his absence, please contact Mr. John Fringer by telephone at 301-415-6208 or by e-mail at john.fringer@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Gregory P. Hatchett, Branch Chief
Environmental Projects Branch 1
Division of Site and Environmental Reviews
Office of New Reactors

Docket No: 52-037

Enclosure: As Stated

cc w/o Enclosure: See next page

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Sincerely,
/RA/

Gregory P Hatchett, Branch Chief
Environmental Projects Branch 1
Division of Site and Environmental Reviews
Office of New Reactors

Docket No: 52-037
Enclosure: As Stated
cc w/o Enclosure: See next page

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DATE	01/27/09	01/29/09	02/09/09	02/10/09	02/09 /09	02/10/09

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