

April 13, 2009

Dr. Roy E. Crabtree  
Regional Administrator  
Southeast Region  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
263 13th Avenue, South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR LIST OF PROTECTED SPECIES AND ESSENTIAL FISH  
HABITAT WITHIN THE AREA UNDER EVALUATION FOR THE CRYSTAL  
RIVER UNIT 3 NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT LICENSE RENEWAL  
APPLICATION REVIEW

Dear Dr. Crabtree:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is reviewing an application submitted by Florida Power Corporation for the renewal of the operating license for Crystal River Unit 3 Nuclear Generating Plant (CR-3). CR-3 is located 35 miles southwest of Ocala, Florida. As part of the review of the license renewal application (LRA), the NRC is preparing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) under the provisions of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 51 (10 CFR Part 51), the NRC regulation that implements the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. The SEIS includes an analysis of pertinent environmental issues, including endangered or threatened species and impacts to marine resources and habitat. This letter is being submitted under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934, as amended, and the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996.

The proposed action is to renew the facility operating license for CR-3 for an additional 20 years beyond the expiration of the current operating license. The proposed action would include the use and continued maintenance of existing plant facilities and transmission lines. The Crystal River site covers approximately 4,738 acres, of which approximately 1,062 acres is industrial. The area surrounding the site is characterized by approximately 3,676 acres consisting of four natural habitat types: salt marsh, hardwood hammock forest, pineland, and freshwater swamp.

CR-3 is equipped with a once-through open-cycle cooling system that withdraws cooling water from and discharges back into the intake canal. The intake system includes four pump bays with conventional traveling screens. The screens are rotated and washed every 8 hours. Material from the screens is washed onto a trough and sluiced to a sump adjacent to the intake canal. CR-3 uses four circulating water pumps. The discharge from the once-through cooling systems of Units 1, 2, 3 is used as cooling tower makeup for Units 4 and 5. Units 1, 2, 4, and 5 are fossil fuel generating units.

The Final Environmental Statement (Atomic Energy Commission, 1973) identifies two 500-kilovolt transmission lines that were built to connect CR-3 to the electric grid: (1) the Central Florida line terminating at the central Florida Substation and (2) the Lake Tarpon line terminating at the Lake Tarpon Substation. The lines are contained in a common corridor for the first 5.3 miles of corridor, then diverge, with the Central Florida line continuing east and the Lake Tarpon line angling southeast, continuing directly south, and turning southwest toward Tarpon Springs. The transmission corridors of interest are approximately 134 miles long and occupy approximately 2,440 acres. Both lines are owned and operated by Progress Energy. The corridors pass through low population areas that are primarily forest and agricultural land (Environmental Protection Agency, 1994). The lines cross numerous state and U.S. highways and the Withlacoochee, Pithlachascotee, and Anclote rivers. Corridors that pass through agricultural land generally continue to be used as such. Florida Power Corporation plans to maintain these transmission lines, which are integral to the larger transmission system, indefinitely. These transmission lines will remain a permanent part of the transmission system after CR-3 is decommissioned.

To support the SEIS preparation process and to ensure compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the NRC requests information on Federally-listed, proposed, and candidate species and critical habitat that may be in the vicinity of the Crystal River site. In addition, please provide any information you consider appropriate under the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. Also in support of the SEIS preparation and to ensure compliance with Section 305 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the NRC requests a list of essential fish habitat that has been designated in the vicinity of the Crystal River site.

On April 16, 2009, the NRC staff will hold two public license renewal and environmental scoping meetings at the Plantation Inn, 9301 W Fort Island Trail, Crystal River, FL 34429. The first session will convene at 2:00 p.m. and will continue until 5:00 p.m., as necessary. The second session will convene at 7:00 p.m., with a repeat of the overview portions of the meeting, and will continue until 10:00 p.m., as necessary. Additionally, the NRC staff will host informal discussions one hour before the start of the session. Once the draft SEIS is completed, your office will receive a copy of the draft SEIS along with a request for comments.

R. Crabtree

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The CR-3 LRA is available on the internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/crystal/crystal-lra.pdf>. If you have any questions concerning the NRC staff review of this LRA, please contact Elaine Keegan, Project Manager at 301-415-8517 or by e-mail at [elaine.keegan@nrc.gov](mailto:elaine.keegan@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

***IRA Lisa Regner for \***

David J. Wrona, Chief  
Projects Branch 2  
Division of License Renewal  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-302

Enclosures:

1. Transmission System
2. Crystal River Site layout

cc w/encls: See next page

R. Crabtree

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Sincerely,

**IRA Lisa Regner for \**

David J. Wrona, Chief  
Projects Branch 2  
Division of License Renewal  
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Docket No. 50-302

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OFFICE	LA:DLR	PM:RPB2:DLR	BC:RPB2:DLR
NAME	SFiguroa	DBrittner	DWrona (LRegner for)
DATE	4/10/09	04/13/09	04/13/09

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Letter to R. Crabtree from D. Wrona dated April 13, 2009

DISTRIBUTION:

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR LIST OF PROTECTED SPECIES AND ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT WITHIN THE AREA UNDER EVALUATION FOR THE CRYSTAL RIVER UNIT 3 NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION REVIEW

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AJones, OGC

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Crystal River Nuclear Plant, Unit 3

cc:

Mr. R. Alexander Glenn  
Associate General Counsel (MAC-BT15A)  
Florida Power Corporation  
P.O. Box 14042  
St. Petersburg, FL 33733-4042

Mr. James W. Holt  
Plant General Manager  
Crystal River Nuclear Plant (NA2C)  
15760 W. Power Line Street  
Crystal River, FL 34428-6708

Mr. William A. Passetti, Chief  
Department of Health  
Bureau of Radiation Control  
2020 Capital Circle, SE, Bin #C21  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1741

Attorney General  
Department of Legal Affairs  
The Capitol  
Tallahassee, FL 32304

Mr. Craig Fugate, Director  
Division of Emergency Preparedness  
Department of Community Affairs  
2740 Centerview Drive  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100

Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners  
Citrus County  
110 North Apopka Avenue  
Inverness, FL 34450-4245

Mr. Stephen J. Cahill  
Engineering Manager  
Crystal River Nuclear Plant (NA2C)  
15760 W. Power Line Street  
Crystal River, FL 34428-6708

Mr. Daniel R. Westcott  
Supervisor, Licensing & Regulatory  
Programs  
Crystal River Nuclear Plant  
15760 W. Power Line Street  
Crystal River, FL 34428-6708

Mr. Jon A. Franke  
Director Site Operations  
Crystal River Nuclear Plant (NA2C)  
15760 W. Power Line Street  
Crystal River, FL 34428-6708

Senior Resident Inspector  
Crystal River Unit 3  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
6745 N. Tallahassee Road  
Crystal River, FL 34428

Ms. Phyllis Dixon  
Manager, Nuclear Assessment  
Crystal River Nuclear Plant (NA2C)  
15760 W. Power Line Street  
Crystal River, FL 34428-6708

Mr. David T. Conley  
Associate General Counsel II - Legal  
Dept.  
Progress Energy Service Company, LLC  
Post Office Box 1551  
Raleigh, NC 27602-1551

Mr. Daniel L. Roderick  
Vice President, Nuclear Projects &  
Construction  
Crystal River Nuclear Plant (SA2C)  
15760 W. Power Line Street  
Crystal River, FL 34428-6708

Mr. Mark Rigsby  
Manager, Support Services - Nuclear  
Crystal River Nuclear Plant (SA2C)  
15760 W. Power Line Street  
Crystal River, FL 34428-6708

Mr. Robert J. Duncan II  
Vice President, Nuclear Operations  
Progress Energy  
Post Office Box 1551  
Raleigh, NC 27602-1551

Mr. Brian C. McCabe  
Manager, Nuclear Regulatory Affairs  
Progress Energy  
Post Office Box 1551  
Raleigh, NC 27602-1551