



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

FEB 09 2009

12/10/08

73FR 75142

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF

E-19J

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Michael Lesar, Chief
Rulemaking, Directives, and Editing Branch
Division of Administrative Services,
Office of Administration, Mailstop TWB-05-B01M
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C.20555-0001

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2009 FEB 27 PM 3:13

RULES AND DIRECTIVES
BRANCH
E-19J

RE: Fermi Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 3 - Notice of Intent and Scoping Request

Dear Mr. Lesar:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) staff members were pleased to be a part of the Fermi 3 site audit visit in early February. We have a better understanding of the topics the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will cover in its Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project, a new reactor unit associated with the existing Fermi Nuclear Power Plant in Monroe County, Michigan.

Following our visit and review of the scoping request, we offer the following recommendations for the scope of the EIS, which are in addition to federal guidance regarding EIS preparation and scope in general.

- EPA encourages selection of alternatives with the least impact to wetlands. Therefore, we recommend a complete evaluation of the wetlands impacted by each feasible alternative site. We also encourage facility footprints within the plant site that will avoid or minimize wetlands impacts. If there are wetlands impacts, we recommend characterization and mitigation information be included in the EIS and not deferred to the permit stage.
- We understand the site may have subsurface karst geology. We recommend the EIS address whether there is karst geology and, if present, evaluate how this geologic setting may influence the project's environmental impacts. To facilitate our review, we would appreciate knowing whether karst geology is present, as soon as this information is available.

E-RIDS-ADM-03

add = S. Lemort (5XLS)

L. Quinn (LMQ1)

SONSI Review Complete

template = ADM-013

Thank you for inviting us to participate in the site audit and for considering our comments on the EIS scope. We look forward to working with your staff during the environmental review process. If you have any questions, please contact Anna Miller at (312) 886-7060 or via e-mail at miller.anna@epa.gov.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth A. Westlake". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Kenneth A. Westlake
Supervisor, NEPA Implementation
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance

cc: Stephen Lemont, Environmental Project Manager, Office of New Reactors, NRC