



January 10, 2007
NPD-MISC-2007-012

Mr. Pete Benjamin,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Raleigh Field Office
P.O. Box 33726
Raleigh, NC 27636-3726

PROGRESS ENERGY CAROLINAS, NEW FACILITY LICENSING, HARRIS NUCLEAR
PLANT, WAKE COUNTY, NC - REQUEST OF INFORMATION ON LISTED SPECIES
AND IMPORTANT HABITATS

Dear Mr. Benjamin,

Progress Energy Carolinas (PEC), a subsidiary of Progress Energy is preparing a Combined Construction and Operating License (COL) Application to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for two proposed new reactor units (referred to as HAR 2 & 3) at the existing Harris Nuclear Plant (HNP). The HNP is located approximately 20 miles southwest of Raleigh in western Wake County, North Carolina. The NRC may consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act in the identification of important species and habitats in the project area. By contacting you in advance, we hope to identify any issues of concern for your agency that need to be addressed in our application.

Construction of the proposed HAR 2 & 3 Units will be immediately adjacent to the footprint of the existing Harris Unit 1. The preferred option to supply the required water for the operation of HAR 2 & 3 includes raising the operational elevation of Harris Lake, from an operational elevation of 220 feet to an operational elevation of approximately 240 feet resulting in the covering of approximately 4,000 additional acres. The preferred option also includes transferring water from the Cape Fear River to Harris Lake to supply the additional volume to the lake.

Transmission corridors which currently support Harris Unit 1 would be used to support generation from HAR 2. If HAR 3 were constructed, additional transmission corridors may be needed, but as of yet have not been evaluated or planned. Such potential future transmission lines for HAR 3 would most likely be located in the counties of Wake, Chatham, Lee, Harnett and Cumberland.

Enclosed please find two figures of USGS topographic map sections that indicates the location of the proposed project area (New Hill quadrangle), including the proposed location of the intake structure on the Cape Fear River and the proposed new pipeline from the Cape Fear River to Harris Lake.

As a result of a similar request regarding the license renewal of Harris Unit 1, you provided a letter to Mr. Dave Corlett dated February 16, 2006 in which you stated that "based on the information provided and other information available, it appears that the proposed project is not likely to adversely affect any federally-listed endangered or threatened species. PEC

Progress Energy Carolinas, Inc.
P.O. Box 1551
Raleigh, NC 27602

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requests your review of the project area again in light of the proposed expansion to identify which of the following will be affected by or is located near the project as shown on the attached maps:

- Federal listed rare, endangered, or threatened species
- Significant biological resources, including critical wildlife habitat and unique natural communities
- Federal designated Scenic Rivers, Wildlife Refuges, Trails, Parks, and Nature Preserves
- Game management areas
- Wildlife protection areas, refuges, wintering areas, and wildlife travel corridors
- Warm and cold water fisheries, including unique or critical fisheries
- Fish passage and spawning areas

PEC would appreciate a response to this letter within 45 days of receipt, providing any information you may have concerning listed species or ecologically-significant habitats that may occur for this project. This will enable PEC to meet the current application preparation process. PEC will include a copy of this letter and your response in the license renewal application to the NRC.

If you have any questions regarding this request please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Paul Snead, Lead Environmental Specialist, at (919) 546-2836 or me at (919) 546-6992.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Kitchen", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bob Kitchen
Manager - Nuclear Plant Licensing

Enclosures



