Progress Energy

April 17, 2009
NPD-MISC-2009-006

Mr. Peter Sandbeck
Administrator, State Historic Preservation Office
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
4617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4617

RE: Proposed Expansion, Harris Nuclear Plant, Management Summary: Archaeological Survey and Deep Testing, ER 06-2238

Dear Mr. Sandbeck:

Progress Energy is considering the expansion of Harris Nuclear Plant, in Wake and Chatham Counties, North Carolina. Part of the project includes expanding the Shearon Harris Reservoir, adding approximately 4,000 acres to Harris Lake. As part of the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, we prepared a Phase I archaeological survey plan for the proposed expansion of the lake. The plan was submitted on May 16, 2007 and approved by your office in a letter dated August 20, 2007.

In November 2008, Progress Energy initiated and has now completed a Phase I Archaeological Survey for the 3,798.8 acre Area of Potential Effect (APE). The survey included shovel testing of 1,019.01 acres of high probability area, pedestrian survey and judgmental shovel testing of 1,577.16 acres of low probability area, and deep testing of 72.23 acres. Disturbed areas (344 acres) and areas of extreme stream meander (786.5 acres) did not receive survey coverage. The survey and analysis of the results was conducted by New South Associates.

The survey identified 103 archaeological sites and 55 isolates within the APE. Two additional sites were identified outside of the APE. Of these, one was the result of a mapping error and the other was an inadvertent discovery. Based on a preliminary review of the results, 30 sites are determined potentially eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. Of the 30 sites, 22 are historic farmsteads. The remaining sites consist of prehistoric and historic resources, including remnants of a former grist mill and a single historic human grave. The complete results of findings and recommendations can be found in the attached document, "Management Summary: Archaeological Survey and Deep Testing at the Shearon Harris Reservoir" (Phase I survey).

Based on the results of the Phase I survey, Progress Energy will conduct a Phase II survey and research effort prior to any ground disturbing activities in sensitive areas identified in the Phase I survey. For the Phase II, archival research would be performed on 21 homesteads and limited subsurface testing would be conducted on a recommended sample of homesteads, based on the archival research. One of the farmsteads was previously identified and determined eligible. Since the portion of the site that is within the APE

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contains no features and does not contribute to the eligibility of the site, no further testing is recommended.

The remaining archaeological sites consist of prehistoric and historic resources. For these resources, archival research and/or hand excavation, machine-assisted scraping, station mapping, and photography would be conducted. The level of sampling for the hand excavations (1 x 1 meter units) and the square meters of machine-assisted scraping would depend on the size of the site and its potential to contribute important information associated with its individual history. Archival research and machine scraping are recommended for the grave. Based on research and delineation of the grave, Progress Energy will contact OSA to consult on the appropriate actions regarding the grave prior to actions that could disturb the site. Table 6 of the Phase I survey report summarizes the management recommendations.

Although a final decision has not been made to proceed with new plant construction at the Harris site, Progress Energy will notify your office as additions to the APE are needed for potential construction areas, roads and transmission lines, etc. We will seek your concurrence with the revised definitions of the APE, and will complete the required Phase I archaeological and historic resources surveys, Phase II evaluations (where indicated), and the Phase III mitigation of adverse effects (if needed). Progress Energy will continue to conduct all work in consultation and compliance with the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology, in keeping with the Department of Interior standards.

Please refer any questions regarding the attached document to Mr. Paul Snead, Lead Environmental Specialist, at (919) 546-2836. As always, thank you for your continued assistance on this project. Progress Energy looks forward to working closely with your office throughout the Section 106 process.

Sincerely,

Robert Kitchen
Manager, Nuclear Plant Licensing

Attachment

cc (without attachment): Ms. Elizabeth Calvit, CH2M HILL
Mr. Chris Espenshade, New South Associates
Dr. Donald Palmrose, US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mr. Paul Snead, Progress Energy