

June 8, 2009

Mr. Gary Knight, Director
Florida Natural Areas Inventory
1018 Thomasville Road, Suite 200-C
Tallahassee, FL 32303

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

Dear Mr. Knight:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the staff) 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 in Citrus County about 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, the NRC's regulation that implements the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The SEIS includes an analysis of pertinent environmental issues, including endangered, threatened, and other species of special concern. This letter is being submitted to request from you information on such species that could occur in the project area.

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 CR-3 site is on Crystal Bay, a shallow embayment of the Gulf of Mexico. The CR-3 site covers approximately 4,738 acres, of which approximately 1,062 acres are industrial facilities. The area surrounding the CR-3 facilities is characterized by approximately 3,676 acres consisting of four natural habitat types: salt marsh, hardwood hammock forest, pineland, and freshwater swamp.

The cooling water intake structure for CR-3 is located approximately 400 feet east of the intake for Units 1 and 2 (Enclosure 1), which are fossil fuel generating units. The discharge from the once-through cooling systems of Units 1, 2, and 3 is used as cooling tower makeup for Units 4 and 5, which 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. The Central Florida line is approximately 53 miles long, terminates at the central Florida Substation, and crosses Citrus, Marion, and Sumter Counties. The Lake Tarpon line is approximately 81 miles long, terminates at the Lake Tarpon Substation, and crosses Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties. 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 (Enclosure 2). These two transmission corridors occupy approximately 2,440 acres. Both lines are owned and operated by Florida Power Corporation. 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, the NRC requests information on species tracked by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory as endangered, threatened, or species of special concern that may be in the vicinity of CR-3 and its associated transmission line rights-of-way.

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's review of this LRA, please contact Elaine Keegan, Project Manager, at 301-415-8517 or by e-mail at Elaine.Keegan@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

Docket No. 50-302

Enclosures:

1. Crystal River Site Layout
2. Transmission System

cc w/encls: See next page

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Projects Branch 2
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NAME	EKeegan	YEdmonds	DWrona
DATE	06/04/09	06/04/09	06/08/09

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Letter to Deborah Getzoff from David J. Wrona dated June 8, 2009

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Elain Keegan

RKuntz

DBrittner

DLogan, DLR

AJones, OGC

LLake, RII

MSykes, RII

TMorrissey, RII

Crystal River Unit 3 Nuclear Generating
Plant

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

Crystal River Unit 3 Nuclear Generating - 2 -
Plant

cc:

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

Mr. Brian Moore
5559 Cactus Circle
Spring Hill, FL 34606

Ms. Gail Grimm
1007 W. Main St.
Inverness, FL 34450

Mr. John H. Ring
220 N. Big Oaks Pt.
Lecanto, FL 34461

Mr. Andrija (Andy) Vukmir
1498 N. Endicott Pt.
Crystal River, FL 34423

Ms. Dixie Hollins
Citrus County Chamber of
Commerce
P.O. Box 277
Crystal River, FL 34423

Mr. Gary W. Maidhof
Department Director
Citrus County Government
3600 W. Sovereign Path
Suite 109
Lecanto, FL 34461