

October 26, 2009

Ms. Patricia Kurkul
Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Regional Office
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

SUBJECT: INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION REQUEST REGARDING THE
COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION FOR CALVERT CLIFFS NUCLEAR
POWER PLANT UNIT 3

Dear Ms. Kurkul:

On February 29, 2008, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff sent you a letter (ML08370414), regarding the NRC's review of an application submitted by Calvert Cliffs 3 Nuclear Project, LLC and UniStar Nuclear Operating Services, LLC (collectively referred to as UniStar) for a combined license (COL) to construct and operate one new nuclear power plant at the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant (CCNPP) site near Lusby, Maryland. Recently, UniStar submitted revised information that contains new alternative sites. As part of the review of the COL application, the NRC is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) as required by Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 51 (10 CFR Part 51), the NRC's regulations that implement the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA). The EIS will include an analysis of pertinent environmental issues, including endangered or threatened species and impacts to fish and wildlife at the proposed and alternative sites. The NRC staff is requesting that you provide any information the NRC should consider in its review of the new alternative sites. Therefore this letter is being submitted for consultation under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934, as amended (FWCA), and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996.

The NRC staff will evaluate the environmental impacts of construction and operation of the proposed nuclear unit and will also consider alternatives to the proposed action, including an evaluation of the new alternative sites. To support the EIS preparation process and to ensure compliance with Section 7 of the ESA, the NRC requests a list of endangered, threatened, candidate, and proposed species, and designated and proposed critical habitat that may be in the vicinity of the new alternative sites. In addition, please provide any information you consider appropriate under the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. Also, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, please provide information regarding designated essential fish habitat in the vicinity of each new alternative site. Please submit your comments as soon as possible, but no later than November 16, 2009, to Ms. Laura Quinn, Environmental Project Manager, Office of New Reactors, Mail Stop T7-E30, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

The CCNPP site is located in Calvert County, Maryland on approximately 2,000 acres on the west bank of the Chesapeake Bay, approximately halfway between the mouth of the bay and its headwaters at the Susquehanna River. The site is approximately 40 miles southeast of Washington, DC and 7.5 miles north of Solomons, Maryland.

The CCNPP site currently has two operating pressurized water reactors that have a combined capacity to generate 1,700 megawatts of electricity. UniStar plans to construct one new nuclear unit adjacent to the two existing units. The proposed unit will be a U.S. Evolutionary Power Reactor (EPR) with a generating capacity of approximately 1,600 megawatts of electricity.

UniStar has identified three new alternative sites that will be evaluated in the EIS. These sites include the former Bainbridge naval training facility, the Thiokol site, and the Eastalco site. The Bainbridge site is located in Port Deposit in Cecil County, Maryland, and would use the Susquehanna River as its water source. The Thiokol site is located near Mechanicsville in St. Mary's County, Maryland, and would use the Patuxent River as its water source. And finally the Eastalco site is located five miles south of Frederick, Maryland, in Frederick County and would use the Potomac River as its water source. Enclosed is a figure depicting the locations of each alternative site.

The cooling system for the proposed Calvert Cliffs plant consists of a mechanical draft wet cooling tower. Approximately 43,480 million gallons per day (mgd) would be taken from the Chesapeake Bay to make up losses from evaporation, blowdown, drift, and desalinization. For the alternative sites approximately 50 mgd of water would be removed from the respective water source, the consumptive water use would be approximately 27 mgd, and the remaining 23 mgd would be returned to the watersource.

The current version, revision 5, of the application for the COL is available through the web-based version of the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System, which can be found at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. Revision 5 of the Environmental Report (ER) section of the application is listed under accession number ML092330294. The revised alternative sites and related information was submitted after revision 5 and can be located under accession number ML092450557. Revision 5 of the CCNPP COL application and new alternative site submittal are also available on the Internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactors/col/calvert-cliffs/documents.html>.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the Environmental Project Managers for the CCNPP COL project, Ms. Laura Quinn at 301-415-2220 or Laura.Quinn@nrc.gov, or Alicia Williamson at 301-415-1878 or Alicia.Williamson@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Schaaf, Chief/**RA**/
Environment Projects Branch 3
Division of Site and Environmental Reviews
Office of New Reactors

Docket No: 52-016

Enclosure: As stated

cc: see next page

The CCNPP site currently has two operating pressurized water reactors that have a combined capacity to generate 1,700 megawatts of electricity. UniStar plans to construct one new nuclear unit adjacent to the two existing units. The proposed unit will be a U.S. Evolutionary Power Reactor (EPR) with a generating capacity of approximately 1,600 megawatts of electricity.

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Sincerely,

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 Office of New Reactors

Docket No: 52-016

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cc: see next page

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ACCESSION NUMBER NO.: ML092660237

* See Previous Concurrence

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DATE	09/ 16 /2009	09/ 17 /2009	09/ 15 /2009	10/ 5 /2009	10/ 26 /2009

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Letter to Patricia Kurkul from Robert G. Schaaf dated October 26, 2009

SUBJECT: INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION REQUEST REGARDING THE COMBINED
LICENSE APPLICATION FOR CALVERT CLIFFS NUCLEAR POWER PLANT UNIT 3

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Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant (Environmental)

Date: 9/1/2009

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