

PMFermiCOLPEm Resource

From: Lemont, Stephen
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2009 12:26 PM
To: Randall D Westmoreland
Subject: Critical Need for ITC Presence and Participation at the Fermi 3 Site Audit

Importance: High

Randy,

Thank you for calling me back this morning to continue our discussion regarding the need for ITC's presence and participation for the transmission line tour and associated discussions/meetings, breakout sessions, etc., as needed, at the NRC's February 2-6, 2009, Fermi 3 environmental site audit. This was a follow-up to the phone message you left me this past Friday afternoon regarding the fact that DTE Energy (DTE) could not engage ITC to attend the site audit.

As I told you this morning, I discussed this matter with NRC senior environmental staff and management, and they are very concerned about not having ITC represented at the audit. The NRC will need to fully understand the transmission lines, rights-of-way, and associated environmental issues and impacts (regarding vegetation management practices, wetlands, stream crossings, T&E species issues and surveys, cultural resources, land use, shock analyses, etc.), which in our experience is information that only the transmission line company can adequately provide for our purposes. Furthermore, with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers attending the site audit and likely to become a cooperating agency on the EIS, the presence of ITC at the audit becomes even more essential so that the Corps' questions can be adequately addressed as well. We will need this information to complete our EIS, which as you know is a key aspect of the NRC's Combined License review and approval process.

The NRC is very concerned that without ITC representatives being present we won't be able to get the information we need on the transmission lines, and in that sense our audit will be hindered and slowed down, become more difficult, and ultimately be unproductive for the transmission line issues. This could mean that we might need to return for a second audit focused on the transmission lines and/or generate many more Requests for Additional Information (RAIs) than typically necessary, which would likely delay the NRC's schedule and increase the budget for the project.

Therefore, the NRC requests that DTE take the actions necessary to bring appropriate environmental and other ITC staff to participate in the site audit transmission line activities. The NRC appreciates DTE's prompt attention to this matter.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Stephen Lemont, Ph.D.

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