



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

May 31, 2011

Mr. Sam D. Hamilton, Regional Director
Southeast Regional Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1875 Century Blvd NE, Ste 400
Atlanta, GA 30345-3314

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR LICENSE RENEWAL OF THE
CRYSTAL RIVER UNIT 3 NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has prepared the enclosed draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for license renewal of the Crystal River Unit 3 Nuclear Generating Plant (CR-3) (Supplement 44 to NUREG-1437, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants" [GEIS]) CR-3, located in Citrus County, Florida, approximately 80 miles north of Tampa, is operated by Florida Power Corporation.

In a letter dated April 13, 2009, the NRC requested that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provide lists of Federally listed endangered or threatened species and information on proposed and candidate species, as well as any designated critical habitat that may be in the vicinity of CR-3 and its associated transmission line rights-of-way.

The NRC's assessment of Federally listed species is documented in the enclosed draft SEIS. This assessment includes 4 species that could potentially occur on the CR-3 site and 11 species that could potentially occur along the transmission lines. The threatened eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*) is known to use gopher tortoise burrows as a refuge. Because gopher tortoises will inhabit maintained transmission lines, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommended in a letter to the applicant that maintenance activity within the transmission lines be conducted in accordance with several procedures to protect the eastern indigo snake. In response to this request, the applicant developed several activities to protect the eastern indigo snake during transmission line maintenance. Because these activities are generally consistent with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service guidelines, the NRC concludes that continued operation of CR-3 is not likely to adversely affect the eastern indigo snake.

The applicant currently reviews proposed projects prior to their start to determine if impacts to threatened and endangered species or other protected resources would occur. The applicant applied this process in a recent review of the laydown area for the south cooling tower. A consistent application of this review process would ensure that impacts to listed species and their habitats are minimized during the license renewal term. Therefore, the NRC concludes that the continued operation of CR-3 for an additional 20 years is not likely to adversely impact any Federally endangered or threatened species.

S. Hamilton

- 2 -

We are requesting your concurrence with our determination. In reaching our conclusion, the NRC staff relied on information provided by the applicant and on research performed by NRC staff. If you have any questions regarding this issue or the staff's request, please contact Daniel Doyle at 301-415-3748 or by e-mail at Daniel.Doyle@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bo M. Pham', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bo M. Pham, Chief
Projects Branch 1
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-302

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/encl: Listserv

[7590-01-P]

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

FLORIDA POWER CORPORATION

CRYSTAL RIVER UNIT 3 NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT

DOCKET NUMBER 50-302

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT SUPPLEMENT 44 TO THE GENERIC
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR LICENSE RENEWAL OF NUCLEAR PLANTS
AND PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR THE LICENSE RENEWAL OF
CRYSTAL RIVER UNIT 3 NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT**

[NRC-2009-0039]

Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has published a draft plant-specific supplement to the Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants (GEIS), NUREG-1437, regarding the renewal of operating license DPR-72 for an additional 20 years of operation for Crystal River Unit 3 Nuclear Generating Plant. Crystal River Unit 3 Nuclear Generating Plant is located in Crystal River, Florida, approximately 80 miles north of Tampa, Florida. Possible alternatives to the proposed action (license renewal) include no action and reasonable alternative energy sources.

Any interested party may submit comments on the draft supplement to the GEIS for consideration by the NRC staff. To be considered, comments on the draft supplement to the GEIS and the proposed action must be received by July 25, 2011. The NRC staff is able to ensure consideration only for comments received on or before this date.

ADDRESSES: Please include Docket ID **NRC-2009-0039** in the subject line of your comments. Comments submitted in writing or in electronic form will be posted on the NRC Web site and on

the Federal rulemaking Web site, <http://www.regulations.gov>. Because your comments will not be edited to remove any identifying or contact information, the NRC cautions you against including any information in your submission that you do not want to be publicly disclosed. The NRC requests that any party soliciting or aggregating comments received from other persons for submission to the NRC inform those persons that the NRC will not edit their comments to remove any identifying or contact information, and, therefore, they should not include any information in their comments that they do not want publicly disclosed.

Federal rulemaking Web site: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for documents filed under Docket ID **NRC-2009-0039**. Address questions about NRC dockets to Carol Gallagher at 301-492-3668 or by e-mail at Carol.Gallagher@nrc.gov.

Mail comments to: Cindy Bladey, Chief, Rules, Announcements, and Directives Branch (RADB), Office of Administration, Mail Stop: TWB-05-B01M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

Fax comments to: RADB at 301-492-3446.

You can access publicly available documents related to this notice using the following methods:

NRC's Public Document Room (PDR): The public may examine and have copied, for a fee, publicly available documents at the NRC's PDR, Room O1-F21, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS): Publicly available documents created or received at the NRC are available online in the NRC Library at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. From this page, the public can gain entry into ADAMS, which provides text and image files of NRC's public documents. If you do not have access to ADAMS or if there are problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, contact the NRC's PDR reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737, or by e-mail at

pdr.resource@nrc.gov. The Accession Number for draft Supplement 44 to the GEIS is

ML11139A153.

Federal rulemaking Web site: Public comments and supporting materials related to this notice can be found at <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching for Docket ID

NRC-2009-0039.

In addition, a copy of the draft supplement to the GEIS is available to local residents near the site at the Central Ridge Library located at 425 West Roosevelt Boulevard, Beverly Hills, Florida 34465, and at the Coastal Region Library located at 8619 West Crystal Street, Crystal River, Florida 34428.

All comments received by the NRC, including those made by Federal, State, and local agencies; Native American Tribes; or other interested persons, will be made available electronically at the NRC's PDR in Rockville, Maryland, and through ADAMS. Comments received after the due date will be considered only if it is practical to do so.

The NRC staff will hold public meetings prior to the close of the public comment period to present an overview of the draft plant-specific supplement to the GEIS and to accept public comments on the document. Two meetings will be held at the Plantation Inn, 9301 W Fort Island Trl, Crystal River, FL 34429, on Tuesday, June 28, 2011. The first session will convene at 2:00 p.m. and will continue until 5:00 p.m., as necessary. The second session will convene at 7:00 p.m. and will continue until 10:00 p.m., as necessary. The meetings will be transcribed and will include: (1) a presentation of the contents of the draft plant-specific supplement to the GEIS and (2) the opportunity for interested government agencies, organizations, and individuals to provide comments on the draft report. Additionally, the NRC staff will host informal discussions one hour prior to the start of each session at the same location. No comments on the draft supplement to the GEIS will be accepted during the informal discussions. To be considered, comments must be provided either at the transcribed public meeting or in writing. Persons may

pre-register to attend or present oral comments at the meeting by contacting Mr. Daniel Doyle, the NRC Environmental Project Manager, at 1-800-368-5642, extension 3748, or by e-mail at Daniel.Doyle@nrc.gov no later than Thursday, June 23, 2011. Members of the public may also register to provide oral comments within 15 minutes of the start of each session. Individual oral comments may be limited by the time available, depending on the number of persons who register. If special equipment or accommodations are needed to attend or present information at the public meeting, the need should be brought to Mr. Doyle's attention no later than Thursday, June 23, 2011, to provide the NRC staff adequate notice to determine whether the request can be accommodated.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Mr. Daniel Doyle, Division of License Renewal, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mail Stop O-11F1, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Mr. Doyle may be contacted at the aforementioned telephone number or e-mail address.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 26th day of May 2011.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

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

We are requesting your concurrence with our determination. In reaching our conclusion, the NRC staff relied on information provided by the applicant and on research performed by NRC staff. If you have any questions regarding this issue or the staff's request, please contact Daniel Doyle at 301-415-3748 or by e-mail at Daniel.Doyle@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Bo M. Pham, Chief
Projects Branch 1
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-302

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/encl: Listserv

DISTRIBUTION:

HARD COPY:
DLR R/F

E-MAIL:
PUBLIC

RidsNrrDir Resource
RidsNrrDirRpb1 Resource
RidsNrrDirRpb2 Resource
RidsNrrDirRarb Resource
RidsNrrDirRasb Resource
RidsNrrDirRapb Resource
RidsNrrDirRerb Resource
RidsNrrDirRpob Resource
RidsOgcMailCenter Resource

BPham
RKuntz
EKeegan
DDoyle
FSaba
ICouret, OPA
AJones, OGC
MFranke, RII
LLake, RII
DRich, RII
TMorrissey, RII
RReyes, RII
RTrojanowski, RII
RHannah, RII

ADAMS Accession Nos.:

ML11144A208 (Pkg.) ML11144A196 (Ltr.) ML11139A153 (Sup44) ML11147A018 (FRN)

*concurrence via email

| OFFICE | LA: DLR* | PM:DLR/RPB1 | GS:DLR/RERB | OGC | BC:DLR/RPB1 |
|--------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| NAME | SFiguroa | DDoyle | MMoser | AJones (BMizuno for) | BPham |
| DATE | 05/25/2011 | 05/26/2011 | 05/26/2011 | 05/27/2011 | 05/31/2011 |

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY