

December 7, 2011

Mr. Rafael Flores
Senior Vice President and
Chief Nuclear Officer
Nuclear Engineering and Support
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P.O. Box 1002
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SUBJECT: CHANGE TO THE COMANCHE PEAK NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, UNITS 3
AND 4, COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION SAFETY REVIEW SCHEDULE

Dear Mr. Flores:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of a schedule change associated with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's review of the Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant (CPNPP), Units 3 and 4, Combined License Application (COLA). This revised schedule supersedes the review schedule provided to you on March 2, 2011, and reflects the recent changes to the NRC staff's review schedule for the United States - Advanced Pressurized Water Reactor (US-APWR) design certification (DC). The schedule change for the US-APWR DC is mainly due to an increased scope of work associated with seismic and structural analysis. The COLA review schedule closely follows the DC review schedule since the CPNPP, Units 3 and 4, COLA incorporates by reference the US-APWR design.

The CPNPP, Units 3 and 4, COLA review schedule encompasses only the safety review. The environmental review has already been completed and final environmental impact statement was issued on May 13, 2011. As you are aware, the NRC is unable to issue the safety evaluation (SE) for the reference Combined License (COL) before the SE for the DC is issued. As a result of the recent changes to the US-APWR DC review schedule, the schedule for the COLA safety review has been revised, as shown in the enclosure entitled, "Comanche Peak Combined License Application Review Milestones." In addition, the schedule assumes the COL mandatory hearing process will start upon the issuance of the Final Safety Evaluation Report and last four months, as described in Commission paper "Staff Requirements - SECY-10-0082 - Mandatory Hearing Process for Combined License Application Proceedings Under 10 C.F.R. Part 52," dated December 23, 2010.

The major area contributing to the need for this revision of the review schedule is the seismic and structural analysis. In a letter dated September 22, 2011, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. (MHI) provided a completion plan for the US-APWR seismic and structural analyses to support the NRC staff's completion of Phase 2 of the safety review. Based on the MHI's completion plan, Luminant Generation Company, LLC. (Luminant), submitted its integrated seismic closure plan in September 2011, to enable the NRC staff to complete the Phase 2 of the safety review. This plan provided several milestones for resolving the seismic computer code subtraction method issues, assessing changes to the standard plant seismic design, and updating the seismic margin analysis description. Additionally, Luminant requested a public meeting in January 2012, with the NRC staff in order to present a more detailed seismic closure plan and to discuss the application of Finite Element Models and waterproof membranes.

Based on the Luminant's current integrated seismic closure plan, the NRC staff plans to complete its Phase 2 review of Part 2, Chapter 3, "Design of Structures, Components, Equipment, and Systems," of the COLA by April 2013. The NRC staff will determine any additional impact on the review schedule after the public meeting in early 2012.

Two other areas which may contribute to the need to revise the review schedule are risk managed technical specifications (RMTS) and foreign ownership. In June 2011, Luminant submitted its technical specification methodology for risk managed technical specifications (RMTS) and risk-informed surveillance frequency control program (RISFCP). The NRC staff has been working with Luminant to resolve all issues regarding the implementation of RMTS and RISFCP. However, the revised review schedule could be impacted if these issues are not addressed in a timely manner. The NRC staff will continue working closely with Luminant regarding its review of RMTS and RISFCP.

By letter dated July 28, 2011, Luminant requested that the NRC staff postpone its review of Part 1, "Administrative and Financial Information" and identify this as an open item in Phase 2 of the review. In its letter dated July 28, 2011, Luminant provided several reasons for this request, including a potential change to the foreign ownership. The NRC staff agreed to complete this review in Phase 4. The revised review schedule, Enclosure 1, is based on Luminant supporting the Part 1 review activities in a timely manner. If Luminant submits any changes to the COLA Part 1, including foreign ownership, then the NRC staff will evaluate the potential impact of these changes on the review schedule.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Stephen R. Monarque, Lead Project Manager for the CPNPP, Units 3 and 4, COLA at (301) 415-1544, or via e-mail at Stephen.Monarque@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

David B. Matthews, Director
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos.: 52-034 and 52-035

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

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David B. Matthews, Director
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Comanche Peak Combined License Application Review Milestones

Safety Review	New Completion Dates
Phase 1 - Preliminary Safety Evaluation Report (SER) and Requests for Additional Information (RAIs)	Completed
Phase 2 - SER with Open Items	April 2013
Phase 3 - Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) Review of SER with Open Items	August 2013
Phase 4 - Advanced SER with No Open Items	January 2014
Phase 5 - ACRS Review of Advanced SER with No Open Items	March 2014
Phase 6 - Final SER	July 2014
Mandatory Hearing Process	December 2014

Enclosure

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(Revised 11/16/2011)

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