

PSEGESPEenveRAIPEm Resource

From: Fetter, Allen
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2012 4:48 PM
To: PSEGRAIResponses@pseg.com
Cc: PSEGESPEenveRAIPEm Resource; Robillard, David L; Mallon, James; Hsia, Anthony; Silvia, Andrea; Saulsbury, James; Zimmerman, Gregory P.
Subject: PSEG Site ESPA Final RAI Env-04 (eRAI_6732)
Attachments: PSEG Site ESPA Final RAI Env-04 (eRAI_6732).pdf

Please find attached RAI Env-04 for the PSEG Site ESP Application. The Env-04 RAI is an aggregate of the rTE draft RAIs that were provided to you on July 20, 2012 as part of a complete table of draft RAIs. There were no requests for clarification on any of the rTE draft RAIs; hence we are issuing this RAI as final.

The schedule we have established to the review of your application assumes technically correct and complete responses within 30 calendar days of receipt of RAIs. For any RAIs that cannot be responded to within 30 calendar days, it is expected that a date for receipt of this information will be provided to the staff within the 30-day period so that the staff can assess how this information might impact the published schedule.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Allen H. Fetter, Project Manager
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of New Reactors
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Environmental Projects Branch 2
Washington, D.C.

301-415-8556 (Office)
301-832-4909 (Mobile)

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Created By: Allen.Fetter@nrc.gov

Recipients:

"PSEGESPEenveRAIPEm Resource" <PSEGESPEenveRAIPEm.Resource@nrc.gov>
Tracking Status: None
"Robillard, David L" <David.Robillard@pseg.com>
Tracking Status: None
"Mallon, James" <James.Mallon@pseg.com>
Tracking Status: None
"Hsia, Anthony" <Anthony.Hsia@nrc.gov>
Tracking Status: None
"Silvia, Andrea" <Andrea.Silvia@nrc.gov>
Tracking Status: None
"Saulsbury, James" <saulsburyjw@ornl.gov>
Tracking Status: None
"Zimmerman, Gregory P." <zimmermangp@ornl.gov>
Tracking Status: None
"PSEGRAIResponses@pseg.com" <PSEGRAIResponses@pseg.com>
Tracking Status: None

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Options

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Request for Additional Information Env-04

Issue Date: 8/29/2012

Application Title: PSEG Site ESP Environmental Review - Docket 52-043

Operating Company: PSEG Power LLC, PSEG Nuclear LLC

Docket No. 52-043

Review Section: ESP EIS 2.4.1 - Terrestrial and Wetland Ecology

Application Section: ER

QUESTIONS

ESP EIS 2.4.1-1

rTE-01: Provide an update to the threatened and endangered (T&E) species list in the ER based on the latest New Jersey list update, and provide life histories on any additional species not included in the ER.

Provide a separate list of New Jersey "special concern" species. Life histories on these "special concern" species are not needed.

Provide narratives on T&E wading bird species based on the updated New Jersey T&E list, along with a table listing New Jersey "special concern" species.

Supporting Information: The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection adopted updates to threatened and endangered species list on February 23, 2012. As a result, the updated T&E species list is needed to depict currently listed species for the proposed site and the alternative sites.

The request for life history information for any additional species is consistent with what is already provided in the ER for listed wildlife species. A list of "special concern" species is needed to accurately assess important species for the proposed site and the alternative sites.

List and description of "important" species, including life histories (ESRP 2.4.1).

Additional background information on terrestrial ecology in vicinity necessary for review of impacts of construction on terrestrial resources (ESRP 4.3.1).

ESP EIS 2.4.1-2

rTE-02: Provide a USGS Land Use/Land Cover-based cover type map for the proposed site.

Supporting Information: The color scheme used for the Land Use/Land Cover maps in ER Chapter 2 makes it difficult to distinguish different cover types. A more simplified version of these maps would help solve this problem.

A description and map of area occupied by each natural and man-made habitat type (ESRP 2.4.1).

ESP EIS 2.4.1-3

rTE-03: Provide on the project docket copies of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service response letters and other agency correspondence.

Provide on the project docket copies of all letters pertaining to wetlands jurisdiction and interpretations to and from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the Corps. In particular, provide on the project docket the

following letter:

Letter to Mr. Brian Bellacima (Corps) from Mr. Jeffrey J. Pantazes (PSEG) dated May 5, 2011, Subject: Jurisdictional Determination Request, U.S., Army Corps of Engineers Confined Disposal Facility, Lower Alloways Creek Township, Salem County, N.J.

Supporting Information: During the Environmental Site Audit, the staff discussed with the applicant the availability of agency letters relating to wildlife potentially present in the site vicinity and any agency interpretations on wetlands jurisdiction. These letters are needed to document correspondence with governmental agencies and to allow for an accurate assessment of potential impacts to wildlife and other sensitive terrestrial resources.

Documentation that the applicant has consulted with appropriate Federal, State, regional and local agencies (ESRP 2.4.1 and 4.3.1).

ESP EIS 2.4.1-4

rTE-09: Provide information on avian protection measures that would be implemented for the proposed off-site transmission lines.

Supporting Information: Although the exact routing and potential impacts from the building and operating off-site transmission lines are not known, a description of potential avian protective measures that may be employed would be useful in the assessment of potential impacts to avian populations from transmission lines.

Potential for bird collisions with transmission towers and lines (ESRP 4.3.1).

ESP EIS 2.4.1-5

rTE-11: Provide data from additional green frog surveys planned for the spring/summer 2012.

Supporting Information: During the site audit, the applicant mentioned that additional green frog surveys are planned for the spring/summer 2012. The information for the green frog may help to better characterize the distribution of this species on the proposed site, and allow a better assessment of potential impacts to this species.

List and description of "important" species and their spatial and temporal distributions, including life histories (ESRP 2.4.1).

Factors considered at each level of alternative site selection process (ESRP 9.3).

Criteria used to screen potential alternative sites (ESRP 9.3).

ESP EIS 2.4.1-6

rTE-13: Provide the following documents on the project docket:

Biological Inventory and Habitat Characterization Report for Alloway Creek Site (January 1996)

Alloway Creek Watershed Phragmites-Dominated Wetland Restoration Management Plan, Elsinboro and Lower Alloway Creek Townships, Salem County, NJ (February 18, 2004).

Provide the following document (which outlines maintenance conducted along transmission line corridors) in the electronic reading room: *PSEG Environmental Compliance Matrix (January 2011).*

Supporting Information: *Biological Inventory and Habitat Characterization Report for Alloway Creek Site* provides important

baseline ecological information of significant value for the environmental review.

Alloway Creek Watershed Phragmites-Dominated Wetland Restoration Management Plan, Elsinboro and Lower Alloway Creek Townships, Salem County, NJ provides valuable baseline information directly related to mitigation methods and measures that may be undertaken for the proposed action.

PSEG Environmental Compliance Matrix provides valuable information on current PSEG transmission line corridor maintenance procedures that take into consideration sensitive natural resources. This information provides a good indication of mitigation and maintenance measures that may be undertaken for the proposed off-site transmission lines.

A qualitative estimate of importance of habitat of threatened, endangered and other "important" species on and in the vicinity of the site relative to habitat of such species throughout entire range (ESRP 2.4.1).

A description and location of any ecological or biological studies of the site or its environs that are recently or currently in progress (ESRP 2.4.1).

Additional background information about the terrestrial ecology of the site and vicinity necessary for review of impacts on terrestrial resources (ESRP 4.3.1).

Maintenance practices along transmission system right-of-ways that are anticipated to affect terrestrial biota (ESRP 5.6.1).
Special maintenance practices used in important habitats along transmission system right-of-ways (ESRP 5.6.1).

ESP EIS 2.4.1-7

rTE-15: Provide existing data about terrestrial ecology at the 15G Site, as well as any additional data about terrestrial ecology at the 15G Site to be collected in spring/summer 2012.

Supporting Information: During the Environmental Site Audit, the applicant indicated that information was available for the 15G site. Also, the applicant indicated that additional surveys for the 15G site were planned for the spring/summer 2012. These data are needed for an assessment of the potential terrestrial ecology impacts of the proposed land exchange.

Additional background data about terrestrial ecology of transmission corridors and offsite areas, necessary for review of impacts of construction on terrestrial resources (ESRP 4.3.1).

ESP EIS 2.4.1-8

rTE-16: Provide additional information on the function of preserves and refuges in the vicinity of the alternative sites.

Supporting Information: Specific information on the functions of preserves and refuges is necessary to compare the proposed and alternative sites. The information needed is limited to the names of the facilities and a brief description of its function.

Additional information for land specially designated for environmental, recreational, or other special purposes to compare the proposed and alternative sites (ESRP 9.3).