



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

December 24, 2014

Ms. Anne E. Haaker
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Preservation Services Division
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
1 Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, IL 62701-1507

**SUBJECT: BYRON NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2, LICENSE
RENEWAL APPLICATION REVIEW**

Dear Ms. Haaker:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is reviewing an application submitted by Exelon Generation Company, LLC (Exelon) Byron Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1 and 2 (Byron). Byron is located in Ogle County, Illinois, approximately 145 miles northwest of Chicago, and 27 miles southwest of Rockford, Illinois. As part of its review of the proposed action, the NRC has prepared a draft site-specific Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to its Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants, NUREG-1437. The draft SEIS includes analyses of relevant environmental issues, including potential impacts to historic, archeological and cultural properties from extended operation activities associated with license renewal.

As stated in our August 9, 2013, letter the NRC has determined that the area of potential effect (APE) for a license renewal action is the area at the power plant site and its immediate environs that may be impacted by post-license renewal land disturbing operation or projected refurbishment activities associated with the proposed action. The NRC views the APE for the Byron license renewal as including the Byron site and the immediate environs.

In the context of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, under which the draft environmental impact statement was prepared, the NRC staff's preliminary determination is that the impact of license renewal on historical and archaeological resources is small, and additional mitigation is not warranted. Under the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the NRC staff's preliminary determination is that no historic properties will be affected by the proposed action.

In support of this conclusion, the NRC has conducted an environmental audit at the site and performed an independent analysis and review of historic and archaeological records. The NRC also initiated consultation with 14 Federally recognized Native American tribes, notifying them of the proposed action and requesting comments and concerns. To date, none of the tribes have responded. Documentation for tribal consultation is presented in Appendix D of the draft SEIS.

A. Haaker

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A copy of the draft SEIS with this conclusion is enclosed. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.8(c), we are requesting your comments on the draft supplement and on our preliminary conclusions. Electronic comments on the draft SEIS may be submitted to the NRC by accessing www.regulations.gov and searching for NRC-2013-0178. Written comments may be mailed to the NRC at:

Cindy Bladey, Chief
Rules, Announcements, and Directives Branch (RADB)
Office of Administration, Mail Stop: 3WFN-06-44M
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Please note that the public comment period for the draft SEIS ends on February 20, 2015.

Public meetings to discuss the findings of the draft SEIS will be held on February 3, 2015, at the Byron Forest Preserve, 7993 North River Rd. Byron, IL 61010. The first session will convene at 2:00 p.m. and will continue until 4:00 p.m., as necessary. The second session will convene at 7:00 p.m. and will continue until 9:00 p. m., as necessary. A meeting notice will be published shortly providing more details about those public meetings. A separate Notice of Availability of the draft SEIS will be placed in the Federal Register through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Russell Chazell, Environmental Scientist, at 301-415-5003 or by e-mail at Russell.Chazell@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA Jeffrey Rikhoff for/

David J. Wrona, Chief
Environmental Review and
Guidance Update Branch
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-454 and 50-455

Enclosures:

1. NUREG-1437, Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants, Supplement 54

cc w/encls: Listserv

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DATE	12/16/14	12/17/14	12/17/14	12/24/14

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RENEWAL APPLICATION REVIEW

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