

NOTE

FROM: Christopher Ryder, Licensing Project Manager

SUBJECT: Summary of Conference Call: Environmental Report of the Westinghouse Application for a 40-Year License

Participants

NRC	Licensee
Christopher Ryder ^(a)	Nancy Parr ^(c)
John Fringer ^(b)	Diana Joyner ^{(Error!}
	Reference source not
	found.d)

Notes

- a. Licensing Project Manager
- b. Technical Reviewer
- c. Licensing Manager
- d. Environmental Engineer

Background

The Westinghouse Electric Company, LLC (Westinghouse) submitted an application to renew special nuclear materials license SNM-1107 (Ref. 1). In addition to the renewal application itself, Westinghouse submitted an Environmental Report.

In addition to complying with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has to meet the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Since NEPA also addresses historic properties and endangered species, Section 106 and Section 7 reviews are typically coordinated with the NEPA review. The Section 106 and Section 7 processes involve determining whether historic properties and endangered species are present, respectively, and determining if they are likely to be adversely impacted by the licensing action. Consultations are done with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

The NRC staff had a conference call on February 19, 2015. In the days leading up to the conference call, the NRC staff obtained information during a site visit on February 11, 2015. Additional information was given to the NRC staff during brief discussion by telephone, and an e-mail.

Information about the CFFF grounds would allow the NRC staff to accomplish the following in the consultation initiation letters:

- Accurately convey information to consulting parties
- Describe changes that have been made to the CFFF property since the previous license renewal that was approved in calendar year 2007
- Determine ground disturbances to undisturbed land
- Obtain concurrence on “no potential to cause effects” and/or “not likely to adversely effect” determinations if no significant ground-disturbing activities are planned

If ground disturbance can be assessed as negligible, ground disturbance-related cumulative effects analysis would not be required (i.e., it would be irrelevant). If ground disturbance is significant, the area of direct effects needs to be accurately defined, so that indirect effects can also be accurately assessed. Making accurate, definitive statements in the beginning of the NEPA process avoids or minimizes unnecessary expenditures of stakeholder resources.

Discussion

While preparing letters of intent to consult, the NRC staff had found minor discrepancies between the Environmental Report and the application for a 40-year license that were submitted by the Westinghouse (Ref. 1)^a. The discrepancies are shown in Table 1. Also, terms used to describe the areas differ in the subject documents. Westinghouse stated that the acreage figures in the license application are correct.

Westinghouse explained that the “Restricted Area” in the license application is equivalent to the “Controlled Access Area” in the Environmental Report, and the “Controlled Area Boundary” is the CFFF’s site property boundary. The controlled access area (CAA) is within the Controlled Area Boundary. Previously, vehicle traffic for property owners behind the CFFF was rerouted. The only planned ground disturbance is an expansion of the UF₆ storage pad.

Before Westinghouse purchased, over 45 years ago, the land of what is now the Columbia Fuel Manufacturing Facility (CFFF), the land had been a farm (see Figure 1). The land owners behind the behind the CFFF were assured unlimited access to their properties through legal agreements. The residents access their properties from Bluff Road along a logging road on one side of the plant. Recently, access had been rerouted to the other side of the plant; the logging road had been refurbished; about 100 feet of the logging road beginning at Bluff Road had been cleared because vegetation

Table 1. Areas of the CFFF

Area	Environmental Report	License Application
Total	1,158 acres	1,151 acres
Undeveloped	1,098 acres	1,083 acres
Developed	60 acres	68 acres
Description	See note 1	See note 2
Planned disturbances	See note 3	See note 2

Notes

1. Main manufacturing building, waste treatment areas and holding ponds, parking lots, and other miscellaneous buildings.
2. “... 68 acres have been or are being developed to accommodate the fuel fabrication buildings, holding ponds, parking and landscaped areas.”
3. The UF₆ storage pad only per Sect. 4.3.2 on p. 4-1.



Figure 1. Land before the construction of the CFFF.

^a Both the application for a license renewal and the environmental report are in the same reference.

had regrown with disuse.

Westinghouse continues to log the wooded area around the CFFF. Logging is done in accordance with State regulations and best practices. Westinghouse consults with an arborist to ensure that the trees are healthy. A forester is consulted about maintaining trees for thinning and logging.

Westinghouse had not consulted with Indian tribes about the logging roads in regards to archeological matters because the ground had previously been disturbed during logging activities. In February 2004, Westinghouse had sold about 7 acres of land next to a logging road to South Carolina Electric and Gas Company; this land is used for switchyard.

Follow-Up Actions

Westinghouse will revise the Environmental Report to be consistent with the License Application during the course of the licensing review.

References

1. Letter from N. Parr, Westinghouse Electric Company, LLC, "SNM-1107 License Renewal Supplement", December 17, 2015. ADAMS accession number ML14352A111.