

May 12, 2015

Mr. Thomas McCoy
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
176 Croghan Spur Road, Suite 200
Charleston, SC 29407

SUBJECT: REQUEST CONCURRENCE FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT, SECTION 7
CONSULTATION ON THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION'S
DETERMINATION OF EFFECTS FOR THE PROPOSED 40-YEAR LICENSE
RENEWAL OF WESTINGHOUSE'S COLUMBIA FUEL FABRICATION FACILITY

Dear Mr. McCoy:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering a request, submitted by Westinghouse Electric Company, LLC (Westinghouse), to renew its NRC special nuclear materials license (SNM-1107) for a 40-year term. The NRC license authorizes Westinghouse to operate its Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility (CFFF) in Richland County, near Columbia, South Carolina. Both the original renewal application (dated July 31, 2014) and its supplement (dated December 17, 2014) are available through the NRC's web-based Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), which can be found at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. The application and its supplement carry accession numbers ML14213A105 and ML14352A111, respectively.

Westinghouse does not propose in its license renewal request to construct any new manufacturing facilities at the CFFF under this proposed action. However, Westinghouse proposes to expand an existing UF₆ storage pad at the CFFF. Because the proposed storage pad expansion would occur on land that has already been developed, such expansion would not be expected to have any adverse effect on wetland and site ecology. Accordingly, impacts to federal or state-listed threatened or endangered species in the site vicinity are unlikely.

Under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the NRC staff is requesting that you provide, within 30 days of this letter's date, concurrence regarding the NRC's ESA determination above.

As background, the NRC staff provides you with the following information.

The CFFF is located within a parcel of land of approximately 469-hectares (1,158-acres). The various buildings and structures that make up the CFFF occupy about 24 hectares (60 acres). Details regarding the referenced Westinghouse plans to expand its UF₆ storage pad are provided in the Westinghouse Environmental Report (ER) Figure 2.1-1, "CFFF and Surrounding Area," Figure 2.1-2, "Area Surrounding the CFFF Site within 5 miles," and Figure 2.1-3, "Topographical Detail of the CFFF Site and Surroundings." The ER is part of the December 2014 Westinghouse supplement to its renewal application, and is available through ADAMS under accession number ML14352A111.

As part of a past licensing action on the SNM-1107 license, the NRC published, on April 19, 2007, an Environmental Assessment (EA), that is available in ADAMS under accession number ML070510647. This EA evaluated the potential environmental impacts of a previous CFFF 20-years license renewal. Similar to the present proposed action, Westinghouse in its earlier license renewal request did not propose action in undeveloped portions of the CFFF. Documentation of the NRC's previous ESA consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is in Section 5.3, "U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services" of the 2007 EA and includes the ESA concurrence letter from Mr. Timothy Hall dated December 15, 2006. In the letter available in ADAMS under accession number ML070050255, the USFWS stated:

We concur with your determination that the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect resources under the jurisdiction of the Service that are currently protected by the Act. Therefore, no further action is required under Section 7(a)(2) of the Act.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Mr. Asimios Malliakos of my staff by telephone at (301) 415-0605 or via email at Asimios.Malliakos@nrc.gov. Written response can be provided to: Ms. Lydia Chang, c/o Document Control Desk, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mailstop: T-4B16, Washington DC, 20555-0001.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Lydia Chang, Chief
Environmental Review Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety, Safeguards
and Environmental Review
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 70-1151
License No.: SNM-1107

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Lydia Chang, Chief
 Environmental Review Branch
 Division of Fuel Cycle Safety, Safeguards
 and Environmental Review
 Office of Nuclear Material Safety
 and Safeguards

Docket No.: 70-1151
 License No.: SNM-1107

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