

## PSEGSPEnvDocsPEm Resource

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**From:** Fetter, Allen  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 11:05 AM  
**To:** Dan Saunders (Dan.Saunders@dep.nj.gov); Michelle Craren (Michelle.Craren@dep.nj.gov); Vincent.Maresca@dep.nj.gov; Mallon, James; Robillard, David L (David.Robillard@pseg.com); sstokely@achp.gov; Halda, Bonnie; bill\_bolger@nps.gov; jls Sheridan@verizon.net; Ron Magill (local\_art@comcast.net); Davis (NRO), Jennifer; 'O'Rourke, Daniel J.' (danorourke@anl.gov)  
**Cc:** PSEGSPEnvDocsPEm Resource  
**Subject:** RE: Working Draft MOA\_PSEG ESP 2015-08-10.docx  
**Attachments:** Draft Trip Report PSEG Section 106 Mtg\_2015-05-19.docx

All,

Attached is the draft trip report from the May 19, 2015 meeting in Salem, NJ. Note that, due to the extensive nature of discussions, the report is a high-level summary of the interactions and conversations.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

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

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# **DRAFT Trip Report for PSEG Early Site Permit Application National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Consultation Meeting and Site Visit on May 19, 2015 in Salem County, New Jersey**

This meeting and site visit was part of the ongoing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act consultation regarding the proposed PSEG Early Site Permit (ESP) at the PSEG site on Artificial Island. Through previous meetings, conference calls, and additional analysis, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has determined that the proposed project would have an indirect adverse (i.e., visual) effect to the Abel and Mary Nicholson House (127 Fort Elfsborg-Hancock Bridge Road), 349 Fort Elfsborg-Hancock Bridge Road, and 116 Mason Point Road, in the event that two 590 foot tall natural draft cooling towers were constructed at the proposed PSEG site. The meeting was held in at the PSEG Energy and Environmental Resource Center (EERC) located in Salem County, New Jersey. Participants included representatives from the NRC, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office (NJ HPO), the National Park Service (NPS), PSEG (the applicant), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), and Ms. Janet Sheridan and Mr. Ron Magill (interested parties). Enclosure 1 is a list of individuals who attended the visit. Enclosure 2 provides the agenda.

The purpose of the May 19 meeting was threefold:

1. PSEG had their contractor, AKRF, do additional research to determine which properties had the potential to be affected by the proposed project. AKRF would provide the results of their analysis to the NRC, NJ HPO, ACHP, interested local parties, and the NPS.
2. Under the Section 106 regulations and other provisions of the NHPA, the NPS is invited to participate when there is a potential for impacts to a National Historic Landmark (NHL). The Abel and Mary Nicholson House at 127 Fort Elfsborg-Hancock Road is a NHL which could be visually affected by the construction of the proposed plant (i.e., two natural draft cooling towers) 4.9 miles away. Part of the meeting was to determine if the NPS would be a part of the consultation for the Section 106 review.
3. The NRC, through its discussions with the agencies and interested parties, proposed to draft a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to resolve the adverse effect from the proposed project on historic properties. Past consultation meetings focused on the development of potential mitigation strategies. A goal of the meeting was to reach consensus on what would be the appropriate mitigation for the effects resulting from the project. Once these items were resolved, the MOA can be signed and Section 106 for the project completed.

Mr. Allen Fetter, the NRC project manager for the PSEG ESP environmental review, opened the meeting and served as facilitator. Ms. Jennifer Davis provided an overview of consultation efforts to date. It had been previously agreed by the consulting parties that the addition of two

proposed natural draft cooling towers would be visible from the Abel and Mary Nicholson House NHL.

After the introductions and overview, Ms. Molly McDonald (AKRF) presented the findings from their additional research. AKRF found that the property at 116 Mason Point Road should be considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and that the property would be visually affected by the introduction of two natural draft cooling towers. AKRF also found the property at 349 Fort Elfsborg Road to be historically significant and that the natural draft cooling towers would also be visible from this property. AKRF also found that the two proposed natural draft cooling towers would not be visible from the final two properties considered: the Isaac Smart House at 489 Salem-Fort Elfsborg Road and the Joseph Darkin House at 85 Amwellbury Road. This discussion concluded with the NJ HPO mentioning the Historic District which they proposed in March 2015 which would include the properties considered by AKRF.

NRC then discussed the status of the MOA and the need to identify mitigation measures. Based on previous discussions amongst the consulting parties, there were three mitigation measures proposed:

- Archaeological investigations on the Nicholson property to determine if there are any intact archaeological remains (e.g., location of outbuildings).
- Conduct a targeted architectural study in the region to identify additional properties that retain historical significance and integrity.
- Construction of a berm on or around the Nicholson property to protect the structure from storm surges and salt water intrusion.

The majority of the discussion focused on the berm option, where it would be located, how high it would be, and how effective this approach would be in stabilizing the Nicholson House. It was agreed that the groundwater intrusion issue currently occurring at the Nicholson property would not be corrected if a berm was constructed around the property. There was also a discussion of where the historic dikes were located in the area, and if any of these dikes could be rebuilt. Concern was raised that the building of a dike or berm is a significant undertaking that would likely have numerous ancillary effects that could result in more issues than were being resolved. A berm, given the magnitude of the effort, could result in greater environmental impacts to the region, and may not be commensurate with the indirect impact from the proposed project. The discussion then turned to other potential mitigation strategies. A berm may be needed at some point in the future due to ocean level rise resulting from global warming. Parties also discussed ways to restore the historic character of the region by removing invasive species (i.e., Phragmites), and restoration of historic dikes. Mr. Bill Bolger (NPS) suggested the parties look at other examples in different parts of the country. Mr. Vincent Maresca (NJ HPO) suggested that conducting archaeological investigations at the Nicholson House could provide additional context for the NHL. Mr. Bolger stated that he had some examples of mitigation that he would share.

The parties broke for lunch and field trip to Nicholson NHL and other locations potentially affected by project.

### Afternoon Discussion

After returning from site visit, discussion resumed on what the group would consider to be appropriate mitigation. PSEG representatives shared cost estimates for the various mitigation strategies, including berm construction, architectural studies, regional architectural studies, targeted architectural studies, and additional archaeology. The discussion then focused on what are the greatest preservation issues at the Nicholson House. Mr. Ron Magill stated that the two main concerns were saline groundwater intrusion affecting the foundation and vandalism. After much discussion, the parties determined that a berm would not resolve the water issue. Discussion turned to other options that could address the water issue (e.g., wells). Ms. Sarah Stokely (AHP) recommended that options discussed in University of Pennsylvania thesis paper could provide potential mitigation strategies. Other types of mitigation discussed included recordation and nomination of the proposed historic district. Mr. Mallon raised the issue that not all members of the public see being part of a historic district as a positive and noted that there could be opposition in the local community. Mr. Mallon stated that PSEG did not want to antagonize public. Mr. Bolger stated that the Nicholson NHL has considerable potential as a major visitor draw, if it were developed. He went on to state that the Nicholson house was very unique. Concern was raised that the amount of money being considered for the mitigation efforts is not commensurate with the level of impact. Mr. Mallon cited other nuclear power plant projects with greater direct effects which did not require such expensive mitigation. The parties concluded that additional studies in the region and for Nicholson House studies would be appropriate, however, consensus on what those measures entailed was not reached.

Mr. Fetter informed parties that the NRC's adverse effect letters would be coming out shortly. It was also determined that another teleconference would be necessary to discuss the NRC's effect letters and to continue discussing potential mitigation measures. In addition, the NRC will provide another draft version of the MOA. Mr. Fetter stated that another meeting would be scheduled in early July to discuss any changes to the working draft MOA (subsequently rescheduled for August 12, 2015).

## **Attendees**

### **NRC**

Allen Fetter (allen.fetter@nrc.gov)

Jennifer Davis (jennifer.davis@nrc.gov)

Dan O'Rourke, Argonne National Laboratory (djourourke@anl.gov) – via phone

### **ACHP**

Sarah Stokely (sstokely@achp.gov)

### **NPS**

Bill Bolger (bill\_bolger@nps.gov)

### **NJ HPO**

Dan Saunders (dan.saunders@dep.nj.gov)

Vincent Maresca (vincent.maresca@dep.nj.gov)

Michelle Craren (michelle.craren@dep.nj.gov)

### **Interested Local Party**

Janet Sheridan (jls Sheridan@verizon.net)

Ron Magill (Local\_Art@comcast.net)

### **PSEG**

Dave Robillard (david.robillard@pseg.com)

James Mallon (james.mallon@pseg.com)

Gary Bickel, AKRF (gbickle@akrf.com)

Molly McDonald, AKRF (mmcdonald@akrf.com)

Jeff Pantazes, AKRF (jpantazes@akrf.com)

# Agenda

PSEG Early Site Permit Application  
National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Consultation  
Site Visit Salem County, New Jersey  
May 19, 2014

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 10:30-10:45  | Introductions at the PSEG Energy & Environmental Resource Center<br>(244 Chestnut Street, Salem, NJ 08079)   |
| 10:45-11:30  | Review activities to date: Effects, Mitigations, Draft MOA   |
| 11:30- 12:00 | Working lunch at the Energy and Environmental Resource Center  |
| 12:00- 1:30  | Visit the following properties:<br>Abel and Mary Nicholson House<br>Sara Mason House<br>116 Mason Point Road |
| 1:30-3:30    | Mitigation Discussion – Based on effects what is preferred mitigation?                                       |