

October 26, 2015

MEMORANDUM TO: Jennifer Dixon-Herrity, Branch Chief  
Environmental Projects Branch  
Division of New Reactor Licensing  
Office of New Reactors

FROM: Tamsen Dozier, Project Manager */RA/*  
Environmental Projects Branch  
Division of New Reactor Licensing  
Office of New Reactors

SUBJECT: OBSERVATIONS FROM ENVIRONMENTAL READINESS ASSESSMENT  
ACTIVITIES FOR A FUTURE EARLY SITE PERMIT APPLICATION FOR  
THE CLINCH RIVER NUCLEAR SITE

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) accompanied by Pacific Northwest National Lab (PNNL) subject matter experts and staff from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Nashville District, has participated in pre-application interactions with Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) related to the draft Environmental Report (ER) that TVA intends to submit as part of its application for an Early Site Permit (ESP) at the Clinch River Nuclear (CRN) site. The staff from NRC, PNNL, and the USACE (jointly referred to as the environmental review team) conducted a visit to the CRN site on March 30 - 31, 2015, a visit to alternative sites on July 5 - 6, 2015, and a readiness assessment of the draft ER conducted at TVA headquarters on August 4 - 6, 2015. This report summarizes the observations, issues, and concerns identified by the environmental review team during these visits.

The March site visit and the July alternative site visit were conducted as part of ER readiness assessment activities and allowed the environmental review team to observe environmental features at the different sites. The August readiness assessment was conducted in conjunction with the assessment conducted by the NRC's safety review staff of TVA's draft Site Safety Analysis Report. The activities related to the August readiness assessment are described in the readiness assessment plan found in Agencywide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS) under Accession Number ML15190A225. Readiness assessment activities do not conform to, nor are they part of the NRC's official acceptance review process. These activities were conducted to understand the level of detail of the CRN ESP draft application and identify any major issues or information gaps between the draft application and the technical content expected to be included in the final application submitted to the NRC. Therefore, the NRC staff's observation from its pre-application interactions and readiness assessment activities do not predetermine whether the application will be docketed. A readiness assessment is not a formal or comprehensive review and additional issues could be identified during the team's formal review after the application is submitted.

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The team did not identify any issues that would indicate TVA would not be able to meet its proposed schedule for submittal of the ESP application. The most significant topics identified by the review team were related to TVA's assessment of cumulative impacts, development of the purpose and need for the proposed action, and the evaluation of alternative sites.

Enclosure 1, presents a summary of observations, issues, and concerns identified during the environmental review team's readiness assessment activities. Enclosure 2 is a list of participants from each visit and Enclosure 3 is the agendas describing the review team activities during each of the three pre-application visits described above.

A public outreach meeting will be held in the vicinity of the CRN site closer to the anticipated submittal of the application (sometime in the first quarter of calendar year 2016).

Project No. PROJ0785

Enclosure:  
As stated

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**ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBERS:**

Package: ML15251A697  
 Memo: ML15251A393  
 Trip Report: ML 15251A399 (Enclosure 1)  
 Agenda: ML15251A424 (Enclosure 3):  
 Attendees: ML15251A432 (Enclosure 2)

\*\*concurred electronically

**NRO-002**

OFFICE	NRO/DNRL/EPB:LA	NRO/DNRL/EPB:PM	OGC	NRO/DNRL/EPB:BC
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DATE	10/08/2015	10/02/2015	10/21/15	10/26/15

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(Revised 10/22/2015)

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