

March 31, 2016

The Honorable Patrick Lambert, Principal Chief
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
of North Carolina
88 Council House Loop
Cherokee, NC 28719

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF THE PUBLIC OUTREACH MEETING FOR THE EARLY
SITE PERMIT APPLICATION FOR THE CLINCH RIVER NUCLEAR SITE IN
ROANE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Dear Principal Chief Lambert:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff anticipates the submission of an application from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) for an early site permit (ESP) for the Clinch River Nuclear Site near Oak Ridge, Tennessee. You are invited to attend the public outreach meeting where the NRC staff will discuss the NRC safety and environmental review process. A key topic to be discussed is how and when the public may participate in the NRC review process, if desired. Provided below is a brief description of the ESP application process and information about the upcoming public meetings.

Early Site Permits

An ESP application is a request to the NRC for approval of a site for one or more nuclear power facilities separate from an application to construct or operate such facilities. The NRC's regulations pertaining to ESPs can be found in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR), Part 52, Subpart A. It is important to note that although successful completion of the ESP process determines if a site is suitable for possible construction and operation of a nuclear facility(ies) and correspondingly resolves many site related environmental issues, it does not grant the applicant permission to construct and/or operate a nuclear power plant. That permission requires either a construction permit (10 CFR 50) or combined license to construct and operate a nuclear plant (10 CFR 52(C)).

Government to Government Meeting

The NRC staff would like to invite the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of North Carolina to attend a meeting with the State and Local government officials. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the NRC's role in the anticipated review of the TVA application for an ESP for the Clinch River Nuclear Site. The meeting of government officials will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Oak Ridge – Knoxville, located at 215 S. Illinois Avenue, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12, 2016.

At the meeting, we will discuss the NRC's regulatory process for new reactors with a focus on the safety and environmental review processes. We hope to have an interactive meeting and will address any questions or comments that you may have.

Public Meetings

The NRC staff plans to hold a public meeting, with two sessions, on April 12, 2016, at the Pollard Technology Conference Center Auditorium, 210 Badger Avenue, Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The first meeting will convene at 2:00 p.m., and will continue until approximately 4:00 p.m. The second meeting will convene at 7:00 p.m., with a repetition of the overview portions of the first meeting and will continue until approximately 9:00 p.m.

Each meeting will be preceded by an open house from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., and 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., respectively, during which members of the public may meet and talk with NRC staff members on an informal basis.

If for any reason you are unable to attend the meetings on April 12, 2016, NRC staff will come and meet with you separately at your convenience to discuss the NRC's regulatory process for new reactors.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Jennifer Dixon-Herrity, Branch Chief, Environmental Project Branch via e-mail at Jennifer.Dixon-Herrity@nrc.gov or at 301-415-2967.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Mark Delligatti, Deputy Director
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Project No.

cc: See next page

Honorable Mitchell Hicks

- 2 -

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Sincerely,

Mark Delligatti, Deputy Director
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Project No.

cc: See next page

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(Revised 10/22/2015)

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