

April 12, 2017

Ms. Tammy Turley  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Nashville District  
3701 Bell Road  
Nashville, TN 37214

SUBJECT: INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE AS A COOPERATING AGENCY IN  
PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE  
TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY EARLY SITE PERMIT APPLICATION AT  
THE CLINCH RIVER NUCLEAR SITE, ROANE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Dear Ms. Turley:

The purpose of this letter is to invite the Nashville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) participation as a cooperating agency in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff's preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended 1969. The NRC staff is developing an EIS to address the environmental impacts associated with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) request for an early site permit (ESP) for the siting and operation of one or more small modular reactors at the Clinch River Nuclear Site in Roane County, Tennessee.

The NRC plans to publish a *Federal Register* Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS and conduct scoping on the ESP application by mid-April 2017. Two scoping meetings will be held at Pollard Technology Conference Center Auditorium, 210 Badger Avenue, Oak Ridge, Tennessee on May 15, 2017. The Corps is invited to participate.

Section 1501.6 of the Council on Environmental Quality implements the regulations for the NEPA and outlines processes for inviting participation of other Federal agencies as cooperating agencies in the NEPA process. Such involvement is based on another Federal agency having either jurisdiction by law or possessing special expertise regarding any environmental issue to be addressed in the NEPA document. Because of the Nashville District's regulatory authority over the discharge of dredged or fill material (e.g., soil, rock, debris) into all waters of the United States including jurisdictional wetlands, we are requesting the Nashville District ("District") to be a cooperating agency. In addition, the District has a special expertise in evaluating whether aspects of a project comply with the Clean Water Act § 404(b)(1) guidelines.

On September 12, 2008, the NRC and the Corps signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Environmental Reviews Related to Requests to Construct and Operate New Nuclear Power Plants. The purpose of the MOU is to establish a framework for early coordination and participation between the two agencies to ensure the timely review of proposed nuclear power plant applications. Cooperation between the NRC and the Corps on the TVA application will ensure that each agency's review responsibilities under NEPA and other related statutes are met in connection with their respective jurisdictions. The general roles and responsibilities of the NRC (as lead agency) and the Corps (as cooperating agency) in developing an EIS for the TVA project are provided in the above-referenced MOU.

Our goal is to complete the development of the EIS in 30 months from the issuance of the NOI. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this project in more detail, please contact Patricia Vokoun, Project Manager for the environmental review of TVA's application at 301-415-3470 and via e-mail to [Patricia.Vokoun@nrc.gov](mailto:Patricia.Vokoun@nrc.gov) or Tamsen Dozier at 301-415-2272 and via e-mail to [Tamsen.Dozier@nrc.gov](mailto:Tamsen.Dozier@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Allen H. Fetter, Acting Branch Chief  
Licensing Branch 3  
Division of New Reactor Licensing  
Office of New Reactors

Docket No. 52-047

cc w/encl.: See next page

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(Revised 3/25/2017)

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