



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

April 20, 2018

Mr. Bill Pearson
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Alabama Ecological Services Field Office
1208-B Main Street
Daphne, AL 36526

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT STATEMENT AND BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE EARLY
SITE PERMIT APPLICATION FOR THE CLINCH RIVER NUCLEAR SITE IN
ROANE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Dear Mr. Pearson:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing an application submitted by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) for an early site permit (ESP) for a new nuclear power plant site, which is located on the northern bank of the Clinch River arm of the Watts Bar Reservoir in Oak Ridge, Roane County, Tennessee. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville District (USACE), is a cooperating agency on the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS), which was prepared in accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 51, the NRC's regulations that implement the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. As part of the review of this ESP application, the NRC and USACE review team has completed the DEIS, which includes a biological assessment (BA). A DVD of the DEIS, NUREG-2226, "Environmental Impact Statement for an Early Site Permit (ESP) for the Clinch River Nuclear Site: Draft Report for Comment" is enclosed for your information and review. The BA is included in Appendix M to the DEIS.

For your convenience, a Reader's Guide is attached to the DVD. The Reader's Guide is a detailed brochure to facilitate your understanding of the proposed action and its potential environmental impacts.

The NRC and USACE staff plan to hold two public meetings to discuss the analyses and results in the DEIS on Tuesday, June 5, 2018, at Noah's Event Venue, 1200 Ladd Landing Boulevard, Kingston, Tennessee. The first meeting will convene at 2:00 p.m. and will continue until 4:00 p.m., as necessary. The second meeting will convene at 7:00 p.m., with a repeat of the overview portions of the first meeting, and will continue until 9:00 p.m., as necessary. The meetings will be transcribed and will include: (1) a presentation of the contents of the DEIS; and (2) the opportunity for interested government agencies, organizations, and individuals to provide comments on the DEIS. Additionally, the NRC and USACE staff will host informal

discussions one hour before the start of each meeting during which members of the public may meet with NRC and USACE staff. You and your staff are invited to attend.

To fulfill consultation requirements as required by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934, as amended, please provide any information, comments, or concerns you may have on the DEIS and BA during the 75-day comment period, which ends on July 13, 2018. Comments can be submitted: (1) by e-mail to ClinchRiverESPEIS@nrc.gov; or (2) in person during the public meetings. After consideration of public comments received, as well as information received through consultation, the NRC will prepare a final environmental impact statement, which is scheduled to be published in June 2019.

The DEIS is also available through the NRC's Agencywide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS), which is accessible from the NRC's Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> under ADAMS Accession No. ML18100A220 and ML18100A223. In addition, the DEIS can be found online at the NRC's Clinch River Nuclear Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactors/esp/clinch-river.html>.

If you have any questions concerning the NRC staff's environmental review of this ESP application, please contact Ms. Patricia Vokoun, Environmental Project Manager at (301) 415-3470 or by e-mail at Patricia.Vokoun@nrc.gov. In her absence, please contact Ms. Tamsen Dozier at (301) 415-2272 or by e-mail at Tamsen.Dozier@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA – A. Bradford for/

Adrian Muñiz, Acting Branch Chief
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Office of New Reactors

Docket No: 52-047

Enclosures:

1. DVD
2. Reader's Guide

cc w/o encls: See next page

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DATED: April 20, 2018

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(Revised 03/12/2018)

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