



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

June 6, 2018

Mr. Phil Boggan
State Historic Preservation Officer
Louisiana Office of Cultural Development
P.O. Box 44247
Baton Rouge LA 70804-4247

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR LICENSE RENEWAL OF
RIVER BEND STATION, UNIT 1, FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Dear Mr. Boggan:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is conducting a review of the environmental effects of renewing the operating license for River Bend Station, Unit 1 (RBS). RBS is operated by Entergy Operations, Inc. (Entergy) and is located in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, approximately 24 miles north-northwest of Baton Rouge, LA. As part of its review of the proposed action, the NRC has prepared a draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) that includes analyses of relevant environmental issues, including potential impacts to historic, archeological and cultural properties from activities associated with license renewal.

As stated in our letter to your office dated September 15, 2017, the NRC is conducting Section 106 consultations in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) through the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as outlined in 36 CFR 800.8(c). The NRC has determined that the area of potential effect (APE) for a license renewal action is the area at the power plant site and its immediate environs that may be impacted by post-license renewal land disturbing operation or projected refurbishment activities associated with the proposed action. The NRC views the APE for the RBS license renewal as including the RBS site and immediate environs.

As discussed in the draft SEIS, the NRC staff's preliminary determination is that license renewal would not adversely affect any known historic properties. Further, the NRC's preliminary recommendation is that the adverse environmental impacts of license renewal for RBS are not so great that preserving the option of license renewal for energy-planning decision-makers would be unreasonable. In support of these conclusions, the NRC conducted an environmental site audit and performed an independent analysis and review of historic and archeological records. The NRC also initiated consultation with nine Federally-recognized American Indian Tribes, notifying them of the proposed action and requesting comments on the scope of the environmental analysis. Documentation of Tribal consultation is presented in Appendix C of the draft SEIS.

A copy of the draft SEIS is enclosed. The draft SEIS is also available through the web-based version of the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) at <http://www.nrc.gov/readingrm/adams.html> under ADAMS Accession No. ML18143B736. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.8(c), we are requesting your comments on the draft SEIS and on our preliminary conclusions. Electronic comments on the draft SEIS may be submitted to the NRC by accessing www.regulations.gov and searching for Docket ID NRC-2017-0141. Written comments should be submitted by mail to the NRC at:

May Ma, Director
Program Management, Announcements and Editing Branch
Office of Administration
Mail Stop: TWFN-7A60M
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Please note that the public comment period for the draft SEIS ends on July 23, 2018.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Robert Hoffman, Environmental Scientist, at 301-415-1107 or by e-mail at Robert.Hoffman@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Benjamin Beasley, Chief
Environmental Review and NEPA Branch
Division of Materials and License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-458

Enclosure:
NUREG-1437, Generic Environmental
Impact Statement for License Renewal
of Nuclear Plants, Supplement 58

cc: Listserv

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