

Diaz Toro, Diana

From: Diaz Toro, Diana
Sent: Friday, August 06, 2021 1:48 PM
To: mark_caldwell@fws.gov; charleston@fws.gov
Cc: Arlene, Briana
Subject: Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS for the License Renewal of the Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility for Public Comment and Section 7 ESA - FWS Log No. 2015-I-0359

Good afternoon,

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has published for public comment the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Westinghouse Electric Company, LLC's (WEC) request to renew its operating license for the Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility (CFFF) for an additional 40 years. The DEIS is publicly available from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC website at <http://www.nrc.gov/readingrm/adams.html>. The ADAMS accession number for the DEIS is ML21209A213. The DEIS is also accessible using the following link: <https://www.nrc.gov/docs/ML2120/ML21209A213.pdf>, and from the NRC webpage for the WEC's CFFF at <https://www.nrc.gov/info-finder/fc/westinghouse-fuel-fab-fac-sc-lc.html>.

The 45-day comment period opened with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Notice of Availability for the DEIS that was published in the *Federal Register* on August 6, 2021 (86 FR 43236). The NRC's notice providing instructions on how to submit comments also appeared in the August 6, 2021, *Federal Register* (86 FR 43277). The NRC staff plans to conduct a virtual public meeting on August 26 to receive comments on the DEIS. The meeting information is available in the NRC's *Federal Register* Notice.

The NRC staff began consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act on May 12, 2015, when the NRC staff requested concurrence that the proposed 40-year license renewal is not likely to adversely affect terrestrial species. In 2019, during the NRC staff's preparation of the environmental assessment for the proposed renewal of the operating license for the CFFF, the FWS confirmed that the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect federally listed species. On July 31, 2020, the NRC staff notified the FWS of its intent to prepare an EIS for the WEC's license renewal application. The DEIS discusses the effects of the proposed action on federally listed species. During the preparation of this DEIS, the NRC staff did not identify information related to the proposed action that would require the NRC to reinitiate consultation with the FWS.

Should you have any questions concerning the staff's environmental review of the WEC's license renewal application, please contact me at 301-415-0930 or via e-mail at Diana.Diaz-Toro@nrc.gov.

Thank you and have a nice weekend.
Diana

Diana Diaz-Toro
Project Manager
NMSS/REFS/ERMB
301-415-0930
diana.diaz-toro@nrc.gov