



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
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July 29, 2003 Rules and Directives

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Rules Review and Directives Branch
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop T6-D59
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

RE: EPA Review and Comments on
Draft Generic Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DGSEIS)
License Renewal of Nuclear Plants, Supplement 13
Regarding H.B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant, Unit No. 2
CEQ No. 030213

Dear Sir:

EPA Region 4 reviewed the Draft Generic Supplemental EIS (DGSEIS) pursuant to Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and Section 102 (2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The purpose of this letter is to provide the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) with EPA's comments regarding potential impacts of the proposed renewal of the H.B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant, Unit No. 2 Operating License (OL).

Carolina Power and Light Company submitted an application to renew the Operating License (OL) for Unit No. 2, a single-unit nuclear plant, for an additional 20 years. The proposed action, (license renewal), would provide for continued operation and maintenance of existing facilities and transmission lines.

Based on the review of the DGSEIS, the project received a rating of "EC-1," meaning that some environmental concerns exist regarding aspects of the proposed project. Specifically, protecting the environment involves the continuing need for appropriate storage, and ultimate disposition, of radioactive wastes on-site. The DGSEIS acknowledges that OL renewal of Unit 2 will require continuing radiological monitoring of all plant effluents. Continuing to appropriately store spent fuel and radioactive wastes on-site is required, in order to prevent impacts. Ultimately, long-term radioactive waste disposition will require transportation of wastes to a permitted repository site. Further, the DGSEIS states that renewal of the OL would result in fewer environmental impacts than the feasible alternatives for generating power, and the NRC considers impacts of OL renewal to be small. Overall, the impacts as defined in the DGSEIS appear to be within acceptable limits.

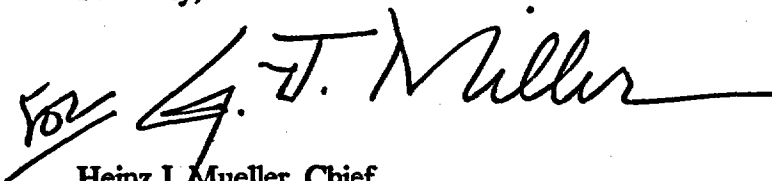
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this document. We look forward to reviewing the Final GSEIS. If we can be of further assistance, please contact Ramona McConney of my staff at (404) 562-9615.

Sincerely,

For  H. J. Mueller

Heinz J. Mueller, Chief
Office of Environmental Assessment