

December 13, 2003

Mr. Chadwick Smith
Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 948
Tahlequah, OK 74465

SUBJECT: U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION REVIEW OF THE
ARKANSAS NUCLEAR ONE, UNIT 2 LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION

Dear Mr. Smith:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is seeking input for its environmental review of an application from Entergy Operations, Inc. (Entergy) to renew its operating license for Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2 (ANO-2), located in Pope County, Arkansas, approximately 6 miles west-northwest of Russellville, Arkansas. ANO-2 is in close proximity to lands that may be of interest to the Cherokee Nation. As described below, the NRC process includes an opportunity for public participation in the environmental review. We want to ensure that you are aware of our efforts and, pursuant to 10 CFR 51.28(b), the NRC invites the Cherokee Tribal Community to provide input to the scoping process relating to the NRC's environmental review of the application. In addition, as outlined in 36 CFR 800.8, the NRC plans to coordinate compliance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 through the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

The NRC will hold public scoping meetings for the ANO-2 license renewal supplement to the NRC's "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants" (GEIS) (NUREG-1437). These scoping meetings will be held at the Holiday Inn, 2407 North Arkansas Avenue, Russellville, Arkansas 72802, on Tuesday, February 3, 2004. There will be two sessions to accommodate interested parties. The first session will convene at 1:30 p.m. and will continue until 4:30 p.m., as necessary. The second session will convene at 7:00 p.m., with a repeat of the overview portions of the meeting, and will continue until 10:00 p.m., as necessary. Additionally, the NRC staff will host informal discussions one hour before the start of each session. No formal comments on the proposed scope of the supplement to the GEIS will be accepted during the informal discussions. To be considered, comments must be provided either at the transcribed public meetings or in writing. The application and the environmental review process are described below.

Under NRC regulations, the original operating license for a nuclear power plant is issued for up to 40 years. The license may be renewed for up to an additional 20 years if NRC requirements are met. The current operating license for ANO-2 will expire in 2018. Entergy submitted an environmental report as part of its application for renewal of the ANO-2 operating license on October 15, 2003. The application is electronically available for inspection from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>, which

provides access through the NRC's Public Electronic Reading Room (PERR) link. If you do not have access to ADAMS or if there are problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) Reference staff at 1-(800)-397-4209, (301) 415-4737, or by e-mail to pdr@nrc.gov. In addition, the application can be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/ano-2.html>.

A paper copy of the document can be viewed at the NRC's PDR, located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland, 20852-2738, and at the Ross Pendergraft Library at Arkansas Tech University, located at 305 West Q Street, Russellville, Arkansas, 72801. Also, the GEIS assesses the scope and impact of environmental effects that would be associated with license renewal at any nuclear power plant site. A copy of this document can also be found on the NRC's website or at the NRC's PDR.

The NRC is gathering information for the document that will be a ANO-2 site-specific supplement to the GEIS. The supplement will contain the results of the review of the environmental impacts on the area surrounding the ANO site that are related to terrestrial ecology, aquatic ecology, hydrology, cultural resources, and socioeconomic issues (among others) and will contain a recommendation regarding the environmental acceptability of the license renewal action.

Please submit any written comments the Cherokee Tribal Community may have to offer on the scope of the environmental review by February 20, 2004. Comments should be submitted either by mail to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Mail Stop T-6D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001, or by e-mail to ANOEIS@nrc.gov.

At the conclusion of the scoping process, the NRC staff will prepare a summary of the significant issues identified, the conclusions reached, and will mail a copy to you.

The NRC will prepare a draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for public comment, and will hold a public meeting in the site vicinity to solicit comments on the draft. A copy of the draft SEIS will be sent to you for your review and comment. After consideration of public comments received on the draft, the NRC will prepare a final SEIS. The issuance of a final environmental impact statement for ANO-2 is planned for April 2005. If you need

C. Smith

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additional information regarding the environmental review process, please contact Thomas Kenyon, Environmental Project Manager, at (301) 415-1120.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Pao-Tsin Kuo, Program Director
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos.: 50-368

cc: See next page

C. Smith

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