

August 31, 2007

Mr. Gilbert Blue, Chief
Catawba Indian Nation
996 Avenue of the Nations
Rock Hill, SC 29730

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR COMMENTS CONCERNING THE VOGTLE ELECTRIC
GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION
REVIEW

Dear Chief Blue:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is seeking input for its environmental review of an application from Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC or the applicant) for the renewal of the operating licenses for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2 (VEGP), located in Waynesboro, Burke County, Georgia. VEGP is in close proximity to lands that may be of interest to the Catawba Indian Nation. As described below, the NRC's process includes an opportunity for public and inter-governmental participation in the environmental review. We want to ensure that you are aware of our efforts and, pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 51, Section 51.28(b), the NRC invites the Catawba Indian Nation 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(c), 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.

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 licenses for VEGP will expire in 2027 and 2029. SNC submitted its application for renewal of the VEGP operating licenses in a letter dated June 27, 2007.

The NRC is gathering information for a VEGP site-specific supplement to its "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants" (GEIS), NUREG-1437. The supplement will contain the results of the review of the environmental impacts on the area surrounding the VEGP site 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. Provided for your information is the VEGP Site Layout (Enclosure 1) and Transmission Line Map (Enclosure 2).

To accommodate interested members of the public, the NRC will hold two public scoping meetings for the VEGP license renewal supplement to the GEIS on September 27, 2007, at the Augusta Technical College Waynesboro Campus, located at 216 Highway 24 South, Waynesboro, GA. 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 first 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.

The license renewal application (LRA) and the GEIS are publicly available at the NRC Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852, or from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). The ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room is accessible at <http://adamswebsearch.nrc.gov/dologin.htm>. The Accession Number for the LRA is ML071840360, and ML071840357 for the Environmental Report. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS, or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, should contact the NRC's PDR Reference staff by telephone at 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail at pdr@nrc.gov.

The VEGP LRA is also available on the Internet at www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/vogtle.html. In addition, the Burke County Library, located at 130 Highway 24 South, Waynesboro, GA, has agreed to make the LRA available for public inspection.

The GEIS, which documents the NRC's assessment of the scope and impact of environmental effects that would be associated with license renewal at any nuclear power plant site, can also be found at the Burke County Library, on the NRC's website, and at the NRC's PDR.

Please submit any comments that the Catawba Indian Nation may have to offer on the scope of the environmental review by October 24, 2007. Written comments should be submitted by mail to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Mail Stop T-6D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Electronic comments may be submitted to the NRC by e-mail at Vogtle_LR_EIS@nrc.gov. At the conclusion of the scoping process, the NRC staff will prepare a summary of the significant issues identified and the conclusions reached, and mail a copy to you.

The staff expects to publish the draft supplement to the GEIS in May 2008. The NRC will hold another set of public meetings in the site vicinity to solicit comments on the draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS). 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 SEIS for VEGP is planned for January 2009. If you need additional information regarding the environmental review process, please contact JP Leous, Environmental Project Manager, at 301-415-2864 or at jpl1@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA Jennifer Davis for/

Rani L. Franovich, Branch Chief
Environmental Branch B
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-424 and 50-425

Enclosures:

1. Site Layout
2. Transmission Line Map

cc w/encls: See next page

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Sincerely,

/RA Jennifer Davis for/

Rani L. Franovich, Branch Chief
Environmental Branch B
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-424 and 50-425

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1. Site Layout
2. Transmission Line Map

cc w/encls: See next page

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Letter to G. Blue from R. Franovich, dated August 31, 2007

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GENERATING PLANT UNITS, 1 AND 2 LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION
REVIEW

DISTRIBUTION:

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