



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

August 3, 2015

Ms. Mary A. Colligan
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Services
Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

Mr. Lou Chiarella
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Habitat Conservation
National Marine Fisheries Service
Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

SUBJECT: AVAILABILITY OF THE FINAL SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT REGARDING SEABROOK STATION LICENSE RENEWAL

Dear Ms. Colligan and Mr. Chiarella:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has completed the enclosed final Supplement 46 to NUREG-1437, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants" (SEIS), regarding the license renewal of Seabrook Station (Seabrook) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA). With this letter, I am forwarding you a copy of the final SEIS.

As part of its NEPA review, the NRC considered effects to species and habitats protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA). The NRC determined that continued operation of Seabrook during the license renewal term is not likely to adversely affect any Federally listed or proposed species under the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)'s jurisdiction, including Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus*), shortnose sturgeon (*A. brevirostrum*), loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*), Kemp's ridley sea turtles (*Lepidochelys kempii*), leatherback sea turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*), Northern right whales (*Eubalaena glacialis*), humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), and fin whales (*Balaenoptera physalus*). The NRC forwarded a copy of the draft SEIS, which documented the staff's ESA findings, to NMFS for review in a letter dated December 29, 2011. Subsequently, in a letter dated October 10, 2012, the NMFS concurred with NRC's "not likely to adversely affect" determinations. In preparing the final SEIS, the NRC staff did not identify any new information that would change the staff's findings or that would otherwise require reinitiation of section 7 consultation.

The NRC also considered effects to essential fish habitat (EFH) protected under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended. During its review, the NRC staff identified 23 species with designated EFH in the vicinity of Seabrook. The NRC's EFH Assessment, which was included in Appendix D of the draft SEIS, concluded that license renewal is not likely to have an effect or may have a minimal adverse effect on EFH for most species and life stages. The assessment concluded that Seabrook operations may have an adverse effect on EFH for all life stages of silver hake (*Merluccius bilinearis*) and for winter flounder (*Pseudopleuronectes americanus*) larvae, juveniles, and adults. The NRC forwarded the EFH Assessment to NMFS for review and requested EFH consultation in a letter dated August 2, 2011. Subsequently, in a letter dated October 26, 2011, the NMFS provided the NRC with several EFH Conservation Recommendations. The NRC responded to the recommendations in a letter to NMFS dated November 17, 2011. This letter concluded EFH Consultation for Seabrook license renewal.

I have enclosed a copy of the final SEIS for your records. I look forward to future coordination with your offices to ensure the continued protection of Federally listed species and designated critical habitats at Seabrook and other NRC-licensed operating nuclear plants in your region.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Michelle Moser, Biologist, of my staff at 301-415-6509 or michelle.moser@nrc.gov, or Ms. Briana Grange, Biologist, of my staff at 301-415-1042 or by e-mail at briana.grange@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA William Ford for/

David J. Wrona, Chief
Environmental Review
and Guidance Update Branch
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-443

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/encl: Listserv

The NRC also considered effects to essential fish habitat (EFH) protected under the Magnuson–Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended. During its review, the NRC staff identified 23 species with designated EFH in the vicinity of Seabrook. The NRC's EFH Assessment, which was included in Appendix D of the draft SEIS, concluded that license renewal is not likely to have an effect or may have a minimal adverse effect on EFH for most species and life stages. The assessment concluded that Seabrook operations may have an adverse effect on EFH for all life stages of silver hake (*Merluccius bilinearis*) and for winter flounder (*Pseudopleuronectes americanus*) larvae, juveniles, and adults. The NRC forwarded the EFH Assessment to NMFS for review and requested EFH consultation in a letter dated August 2, 2011. Subsequently, in a letter dated October 26, 2011, the NMFS provided the NRC with several EFH Conservation Recommendations. The NRC responded to the recommendations in a letter to NMFS dated November 17, 2011. This letter concluded EFH Consultation for Seabrook license renewal.

I have enclosed a copy of the final SEIS for your records. I look forward to future coordination with your offices to ensure the continued protection of Federally listed species and designated critical habitats at Seabrook and other NRC-licensed operating nuclear plants in your region.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Michelle Moser, Biologist, of my staff at 301-415-6509 or michelle.moser@nrc.gov, or Ms. Briana Grange, Biologist, of my staff at 301-415-1042 or by e-mail at briana.grange@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

David J. Wrona, Chief
Environmental Review
and Guidance Update Branch
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-443

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/encl: Listserv

DISTRIBUTION: See next page

ADAMS Accession Nos.: ML14260A456 (package), ML14260A454 (letter)
Enclosure: ML15209A575 and ML15209A870 (final SEIS) *concurring via email

| | | | | | |
|---------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| OFFICE | LA:DLR* | AB:RERB:DLR | AB:RERB:DLR | BC:RPB2:DLR | BC:RERB:DLR |
| NAME | IKing | BGrange | MMoser | JDanna | DWrona |
| DATE | 9/23/2014 | 6/30/2015 | 7/01/2015 | 7/29/15 | 8/3/15 |

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Letter to M. Colligan and L. Chiarella from D. Wrona dated August 3, 2015

SUBJECT: AVAILABILITY OF THE FINAL SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT REGARDING SEABROOK STATION LICENSE RENEWAL

DISTRIBUTION:

HARD COPY:

Julie Crocker
National Marine Fisheries Services
Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

Karen Greene
National Marine Fisheries Services
Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

E-MAIL:

PUBLIC
RidsNrrDlr Resource
RidsNrrDlrRerb Resource
RidsNrrDlrRpb2 Resource
EndangeredSpecies Resource
RidsNrrPMSeabrook Resource

BGrange
MMoser
LJames
JDanna
DWrona

Julie Crocker, NMFS (julie.crocker@fws.gov)
Karen Greene, NMFS (karen.greene@noaa.gov)