

April 17, 2015

Ms. Patricia A. Kurkul
Northeast Regional Administrator
NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Regional Office
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF ISSUANCE OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF THE BELL BEND
NUCLEAR POWER PLANT COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION

Dear Ms. Kurkul:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing an application submitted by PPL Bell Bend, LLC for a combined license (COL) for construction and operation of one new nuclear power plant at its Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant site near Berwick, Pennsylvania. As part of its review of the proposed action, the NRC staff has prepared a draft environmental impact statement (EIS). The draft EIS, NUREG-2179, *Environmental Impact Statement for the Combined License for the Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant*, includes analyses of relevant environmental issues, including potential impacts and effects on historic properties, and documents the NRC staff's determination regarding the suitability of the proposed site for the construction and operation of a new nuclear power plant. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District (USACE), is a cooperating agency on the draft EIS.

A notice of availability of the draft EIS is anticipated to be published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in *the Federal Register* on April 24, 2015. The draft EIS is available for public inspection at the NRC Public Document Room, located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852, or from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access Management System (ADAMS), which is accessible from the NRC's website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> under the accession numbers ML15103A012 and ML15103A025. The draft EIS can also be accessed online at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactors/col/bell-bend.html>.

The NRC and USACE plan to hold two public meetings to go over the analyses and results in the draft EIS on June 4, 2015, at the Bloomsburg University, Monty's Building Upper Campus, 400 East Second Street, Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania 17815. The first meeting will convene at 3:00 p.m. and will continue until 5:30 p.m., as necessary. The second meeting will convene at 7:30 p.m. and will continue until 10:00 p.m., as necessary. The meetings will be transcribed and will include: (1) a presentation of the contents of the draft EIS and (2) the opportunity for interested government agencies, organizations, and individuals to provide comments on the draft EIS. Additionally, the NRC and USACE staff will host informal discussions one hour before the start of each meeting during which members of the public may meet and talk with staff members on an informal basis. You and your staff are invited to attend.

P. Kurkul

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Please provide any information or comments you feel are appropriate on the draft EIS during the comment period, which ends on July 7, 2015. Comments can be submitted: (1) by mail to the Chief, Rules, Announcements, and Directives Branch (RADB), Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, Mail stop: OWFN 12-H08, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001; (2) by e-mail to BBNP.COLEIS@nrc.gov; or (3) in person during the public meetings.

If you have any questions concerning the NRC staff's environmental review of this COL application, please contact environmental project managers Ms. Tomeka Terry at 301-415-1488 or via e-mail at Tomeka.Terry@nrc.gov, or Ms. Patricia Vokoun at 301-415-3470 or via email at Patricia.Vokoun@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Jennifer L. Dixon-Herrity, Chief
Environmental Projects Branch
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket No. 52-039

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/o encls: See next page

P. Kurkul

- 2 -

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Jennifer L. Dixon-Herrity, Chief
Environmental Projects Branch
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Office of New Reactors

Docket No. 52-039

Enclosure:

As stated

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