



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

July 16, 2015

Mr. Tom Melius
Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Midwest Region (Region 3)
5600 American Blvd. West, Suite 990
Bloomington, MN 55437-1458

Mr. Tony Sullins
Threatened and Endangered Species Chief
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Midwest Region (Region 3)
5600 American Blvd. West, Suite 990
Bloomington, MN 55437-1458

Mr. Kraig McPeck
Field Office Supervisor
Rock Island Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1511 47th Avenue
Moline, IL 61265

SUBJECT: AVAILABILITY OF THE FINAL SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT FOR THE PROPOSED LICENSE RENEWAL OF BYRON
STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2

Dear Mr. Melius, Mr. Sullins, and Mr. McPeck:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has completed the enclosed final Supplement 54 to NUREG-1437, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants," (SEIS) regarding the license renewal of Byron Station, Units 1 and 2 (Byron) 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 staff determined that the proposed license renewal would have no effect on the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), Indiana bat (*M. sodalis*), prairie bush clover (*Lespedeza leptostachya*), eastern prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*), or leafy prairie clover (*Dalea foliosa*) or these species' critical habitats, as applicable. The staff documented its supporting analysis in Sections 3.8, 4.8, and Appendix C of the SEIS. In a letter dated December 24, 2014, the NRC submitted a copy of the draft SEIS to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for its review. The FWS concurred with the NRC's "no effect" determinations in a letter dated January 29, 2015. In preparing the final SEIS, the NRC staff did not identify any new information that would change the staff's findings of "no effect" or that would otherwise require initiation of section 7

consultation. Accordingly, the NRC considers its obligations under ESA section 7 for the proposed license renewal of Byron to be fulfilled.

I look forward to future coordination with your offices to ensure the continued protection of Federally listed species and designated critical habitats at Byron and other NRC-licensed operating nuclear plants in your respective regions. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Briana Grange, Biologist, at 301-415-1042 or by e-mail at briana.grange@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

Docket Nos. 50-454 and 50-455

Enclosures:
As stated

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Enclosures:
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DISTRIBUTION: See next page

ADAMS Accession Nos.: ML15079A067 (package), ML15079A065 (letter)
Enclosures: ML15196A263 (final SEIS) *concurred via email

OFFICE	LA:DLR*	AB:RERB:DLR	BC:RPB2:DLR	BC:RERB:DLR
NAME	SWoods	BGrange	JDanna	DWrona
DATE	4/15/15	7/2/15	7/16/15	7/16/15

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Letter to T. Melius, T. Sullins, and K. McPeck from D. Wrona dated July 16, 2015

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STATEMENT FOR THE PROPOSED LICENSE RENEWAL OF BYRON
STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2

DISTRIBUTION:

HARD COPY:

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Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Rock Island Field Office
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1511 47th Avenue
Moline, Illinois 61265

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