

August 21, 2015

Ms. Wendi Weber, Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Northeast Regional Office
300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035-9587

SUBJECT: SUBMITTAL OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT ON THE
RUFA RED KNOT AND NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT FOR THE EARLY SITE
PERMIT FOR THE PSEG SITE

Dear Ms. Weber:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), as a cooperating agency, completed the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for an early site permit (ESP) for the PSEG Power, LLC and PSEG Nuclear, LLC (PSEG) site, NUREG-2168, "Environmental Impact Statement for an Early Site Permit (ESP) at the PSEG Site: Draft Report for Comment." The DEIS included analysis of pertinent environmental matters including those involving endangered or threatened species and impacts to fish and wildlife.

As part of the ESP review, the NRC staff prepared a Biological Assessment (BA) that was submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) on August 28, 2014, for the Federally-listed threatened bog turtle and proposed listed endangered northern long-eared bat. In a letter dated November 5, 2014, the U.S. Department of Interior responded to the EIS, indicating that no additional measures were required. Since the issuance of the 2014 BA, the rufa red knot bird was listed as a threatened species in January 2015 and the northern long-eared bat was updated to Federally-listed as threatened in May 2015. The NRC and the USACE have prepared a supplemental BA to update the 2014 BA. The purpose of this letter is to provide a copy of the supplemental BA for your review (enclosed).

The PSEG Site is located on the southern part of Artificial Island in Lower Alloways Creek Township, Salem County, New Jersey. Artificial Island was formed from dredge spoils produced as a result of maintenance dredging of the Delaware River navigation channel by the USACE. The PSEG Site is located adjacent to Hope Creek Generating Station and Salem Generating Station on the northwestern portion of the existing PSEG property. The PSEG application for an ESP requests site approval for a potential future nuclear power plant adjacent to the existing units. An ESP does not authorize construction activities; PSEG would have to separately apply for and receive a license from the NRC to construct and operate a nuclear power plant at the PSEG site. Certain USACE regulated activities and structures associated with the project would occur in waters of the United States and adjacent wetlands under a requested Department of the Army permit.

W. Weber

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To ensure compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) and to complete consultation as required by the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the NRC and USACE prepared this supplemental BA to support joint consultation with the FWS in accordance with the ESA, as amended.

If you have any questions concerning the NRC staff's environmental review of this ESP application, please contact Mr. Allen Fetter, NRC Environmental Project Manager at (301) 415-8556 or via e-mail to Allen.Fetter@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

Docket No. 52-043

cc: See next page

Enclosure:
As stated

W. Weber

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To ensure compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) and to fulfill consultation requirements as required by the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the NRC and USACE prepared this Supplemental BA to support a joint consultation with the FWS in accordance with the ESA, as amended.

If you have any questions concerning the NRC staff's environmental review of this ESP application, please contact Mr. Allen Fetter, NRC Environmental Project Manager at (301) 415-8556 or via e-mail to Allen.Fetter@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

Docket No. 52-043

cc: See next page

Enclosure:
As stated

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ACCESSION NO.: ML15211A203 (Letter)
ML15232A233 (Package)

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