



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

January 13, 2020

Mr. Ken Taylor, Director
Site Assessment, Remediation,
and Revitalization Division
South Carolina Department of Health
and Environmental Control
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 20291

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT RELATED TO THE LICENSE RENEWAL OF THE COLUMBIA
FUEL FABRICATION FACILITY (DOCKET NUMBER: 70-1151)

Dear Mr. Taylor:

On October 28, 2019, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) published a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML19228A278) related to its review of Westinghouse Electric Company, LLC (WEC's) application for license renewal for its Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility in Hopkins, South Carolina. The issuance of the draft EA initiated a 30-day public comment period, which ended November 27, 2019. The NRC appreciates the comments received from your agency, dated November 26, 2019 (ADAMS Accession No. ML19344C158). In your letter, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) requested that the NRC either suspend making a final finding of no significant impact determination or extend the comment period until March 2020 to allow time to receive, review, and evaluate new groundwater and sediment data from WEC because of ongoing activities under the Consent Agreement.

The NRC is not extending the public comment period at this time. However, the NRC does intend to evaluate the new data, which is expected to be submitted to SCDHEC in January 2020, as part of the NRC's environmental review. Therefore, the NRC requests that SCDHEC provide its comments on the draft EA, in light of the new data submitted in January 2020, to the NRC by **March 27, 2019**. The NRC will consider the new data and SCDHEC's comments, as well as the public comments received during the comment period, as part of the environmental review process.

In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Section 2.390 of the NRC's "Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of the NRC's ADAMS. ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If you have any questions regarding this communication, please contact the environmental project manager Jessie Quintero at 301-415-7476, or via e-mail at Jessie.Quintero@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Cinthya I. Roman, Branch Chief
Environmental Review Materials Branch
Division of Rulemaking, Environmental
and Financial Support
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 70-1151

License No. SNM-1107

cc:

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DATED: January 13, 2020

ADAMS Accession Number: ML20009F526

***via email**

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