

**From:** Grange, Briana  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2020 12:05 PM  
**To:** Grange, Briana  
**Cc:** Martinez, Nancy; Davis, Jennifer; Audra Livergood; Crocker, Julie; Lynne Krasnow; O'Brien, David; pace.wilbur@noaa.gov; david.dale@noaa.gov; Kristy Beard; Karen Greene; Joanne Delaney (joanne.delaney@noaa.gov); Sarah Fangman (sarah.fangman@noaa.gov); Nester, Lindsay; Rivera, Jose; McCorkle, Richard; Trahan, Amy; 'Sikes, Monica'; David Simmons; vonOettingen, Susi; troy\_anderson@fws.gov; Joseph Ranson (joseph\_ranson@fws.gov); Thomas Chapman - FWS (thomas\_chapman@fws.gov)  
**Subject:** FYI: NRC is updating its generic EIS for nuclear plant license renewal (NUREG-1437)

Good morning FWS and NOAA colleagues,

I am emailing you because we have worked together on a nuclear plant license renewal project within the past several years, and I want to let you know that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is reviewing and potentially updating its generic environmental impact statement (GEIS) ([NUREG-1437](#)) for this Federal action. The NRC is currently conducting scoping for the possible GEIS update in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This email provides some background and describes how you or other staff in your office can participate in this process.

#### Background

The license renewal GEIS evaluates the impacts of nuclear power plant license renewal. The Federal action of license renewal involves the NRC's issuance of renewed licenses for individual nuclear power plants that authorize an additional 20 years of operation. NRC regulations do not limit the number of license renewal periods over which plants may operate, and the license renewal GEIS applies to both initial and subsequent license renewals.

In the license renewal GEIS, the NRC staff systematically evaluates the environmental impacts that would occur from nuclear power plant license renewal and establishes a list of environmental impact issues. The staff assigns a category to each environmental issue to indicate whether the GEIS's analysis (1) applies to all plants (or a distinct subset of plants) or (2) whether the environmental issue requires the NRC staff to perform a site-specific analysis for each license renewal review. In connection with the license renewal GEIS, the NRC has codified 78 environmental issues and its findings related to those issues in its regulations at [Table B-1 of 10 CFR Part 51, Subpart A, Appendix B](#). Table B-1 and the license renewal GEIS together support the NRC staff's development of supplemental environmental impact statements (SEISs) for NEPA reviews of individual power plant license renewal applications. You have likely consulted with me, on behalf of the NRC, under the Endangered Species Act, Magnuson-Stevens Act, or National Marine Sanctuaries Act in connection with one or more project-specific SEISs.

#### NEPA Scoping

The NRC last updated the license renewal GEIS in 2013. If revised, this would be the second revision. The NRC published a *Federal Register* notice concerning this project on August 4 ([85 FR 47252](#)). **The notice initiated a 90-day public comment period that concludes on November 2.** As part of our scoping efforts, the NRC staff will hold four public webinars:

- August 19, 2020, from 1:30-4:00 p.m. EDT
- August 19, 2020, from 6:30-9:00 p.m. EDT
- August 27, 2020, from 1:30-4:00 p.m. EDT
- August 27, 2020, from 6:30-9:00 p.m. EDT

The NRC is also accepting public comments during the scoping period. **You and your office are invited to participate in the public scoping meetings and to submit scoping comments on this project.** Further information concerning attending the public meetings and submitting comments can be found in the above-linked *Federal Register* notice.

At the conclusion of the scoping period, the NRC will consider the results of its review and the public comments it receives to determine whether to proceed with updating the license renewal GEIS. Site-specific environmental reviews of license renewal applications will continue under the agency's current NEPA regulatory framework throughout the course of this effort. If the NRC determines that an update is not necessary, this decision will be published in a notice in the *Federal Register*.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via email or phone.

Thank you,

Briana

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Briana A. Grange

Conservation Biologist & ESA Consultation Coordinator  
Environmental Center of Expertise  
Office of Materials Safety and Safeguards  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

[briana.grange@nrc.gov](mailto:briana.grange@nrc.gov)  
(301) 415-1042

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**From:** Grange, Briana

**Created By:** Briana.Grange@nrc.gov

**Recipients:**

"Martinez, Nancy" <Nancy.Martinez@nrc.gov>  
Tracking Status: None  
"Davis, Jennifer" <Jennifer.Davis@nrc.gov>  
Tracking Status: None  
"Audra Livergood" <audra.livergood@noaa.gov>  
Tracking Status: None  
"Crocker, Julie" <julie.crocker@noaa.gov>  
Tracking Status: None  
"Lynne Krasnow" <lynne.krasnow@noaa.gov>  
Tracking Status: None  
"O'Brien, David" <david.l.obrien@noaa.gov>  
Tracking Status: None  
"pace.wilbur@noaa.gov" <pace.wilbur@noaa.gov>  
Tracking Status: None  
"david.dale@noaa.gov" <david.dale@noaa.gov>  
Tracking Status: None  
"Kristy Beard" <kristy.beard@noaa.gov>  
Tracking Status: None  
"Karen Greene" <karen.greene@noaa.gov>  
Tracking Status: None  
"Joanne Delaney (joanne.delaney@noaa.gov)" <joanne.delaney@noaa.gov>  
Tracking Status: None  
"Sarah Fangman (sarah.fangman@noaa.gov)" <sarah.fangman@noaa.gov>  
Tracking Status: None  
"Nester, Lindsay" <lindsay\_nester@fws.gov>  
Tracking Status: None  
"Rivera, Jose" <jose\_rivera@fws.gov>  
Tracking Status: None  
"McCorkle, Richard" <richard\_mccorkle@fws.gov>  
Tracking Status: None  
"Trahan, Amy" <amy\_trahan@fws.gov>  
Tracking Status: None  
"Sikes, Monica" <monica\_sikes@fws.gov>  
Tracking Status: None  
"David Simmons" <David\_Simmons@fws.gov>  
Tracking Status: None  
"vonOettingen, Susi" <susi\_vonoettingen@fws.gov>  
Tracking Status: None  
"troy\_anderson@fws.gov" <troy\_anderson@fws.gov>  
Tracking Status: None

"Joseph Ranson (joseph\_ranson@fws.gov)" <joseph\_ranson@fws.gov>

Tracking Status: None

"Thomas Chapman - FWS (thomas\_chapman@fws.gov)" <thomas\_chapman@fws.gov>

Tracking Status: None

"Grange, Briana" <Briana.Grange@nrc.gov>

Tracking Status: None

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