

Diaz Toro, Diana

From: Diaz Toro, Diana
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 10:09 AM
To: sarah.furtak@noaa.gov
Cc: mark.lamb@noaa.gov; noah.silverman@noaa.gov; nmfs.ser.esa.consultations@noaa.gov; Grange, Briana; Trefethen, Jean
Subject: Westinghouse Environmental Impact Statement Scoping Process FRN (SER-2017-18839)
Attachments: Westinghouse EIS Scoping FRN.pdf

Good morning Mrs. Furtak,

I'm Diana Diaz-Toro, a Project Manager at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC is conducting an environmental review for the license renewal application from Westinghouse Electric Company, LLC (Westinghouse) for its Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility in Hopkins, South Carolina. My colleague, Jessie Quintero, had been leading this effort. While she is on a rotational assignment, I will be managing the environmental review efforts.

I am contacting you today to notify you of and invite you to participate in the NRC's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) scoping process for the Westinghouse project.

The NRC staff will be preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the license renewal application from Westinghouse for its fuel fabrication facility. If the license renewal request is approved, the facility would continue making fuel assemblies for commercial nuclear power plants for an additional 40 years. The action being reviewed is the same considered for a 2018 draft environmental assessment (EA), on which the NRC and your office consulted.

On July 31, 2020, the NRC staff published a notice of intent, in the *Federal Register* ([85 FR 46193](#)), to prepare an EIS for Westinghouse's license renewal request and announced the beginning of the scoping process. The NRC is conducting the scoping process in accordance with section 51.29 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR). The purpose of the scoping process is to determine the appropriate scope of the EIS, including significant environmental issues to be analyzed in depth, as well as those that should be eliminated from detailed study because they are peripheral or are not significant. After the close of the scoping comment period, the NRC staff will prepare a concise summary of its scoping process in accordance with 10 CFR 51.29(b). The scoping summary report will be sent to each participant in the scoping process for whom the staff has a physical or e-mail address.

The NRC staff is inviting the public, local, State, Tribal, and Federal government agencies to participate in the environmental scoping process by submitting written comments during the scoping comment period, which ends on August 31, 2020, via:

- Federal Rulemaking Web Site: Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2015-0039,
- E-mail comments to: WEC_CFFF_EIS.resource@nrc.gov, or
- Mail comments to: Office of Administration, Mail Stop: TWFN-7-A60M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

Consultation History

The NRC and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) engaged in Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 consultation on this project in 2017-2018. The NMFS provided its concurrence with not likely to adversely affect determinations for shortnose and Atlantic sturgeon on April 12, 2018. On July 10, 2019, the NRC staff followed-up via e-mail describing additional groundwater monitoring that Westinghouse would carry out in response to former buried wastewater pipe leaks that released contaminants into the site's subsurface, and the State's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit for the CFFF (ADAMS Accession No. [ML19191A074](#)).

The NRC staff determined that the new information did not necessitate further ESA Section 7 consultation between the NRC and the NMFS regarding sturgeon.

On October 28, 2019, the NRC staff published the draft EA for Westinghouse's license renewal request for public review and comment. The draft EA documented the NRC staff's ESA analysis concluding that NRC staff had identified no information during its review that would necessitate re-initiation of consultation for the proposed action (ADAMS Accession No. ML19301C175).

In March 2020, Westinghouse provided additional information to the NRC staff regarding its investigation into water and soil contamination. The new information revealed uncertainty about the source and extent of contamination onsite and the potential future migration pathways offsite, which precluded the NRC staff from making a finding of no significant impact or FONSI through the EA and, necessitated the NRC prepare an EIS in accordance with 10 CFR 51.31(a) (ADAMS Accession No. [ML20150A289](#)).

Next Steps

Preparation of an EIS is the next step in the NRC staff's environmental review process for the Westinghouse license renewal request and will include a discussion of NRC staff's ESA analysis and effects determinations. The NRC staff is currently reviewing the new information to determine whether it will necessitate the reinitiating of consultation. Once the draft EIS has been prepared, the NRC staff will publish it for public review and comment in accordance with 10 CFR 51.73.

As discussed above, comments on the scope of the EIS can be submitted through August 31, 2020. Additional information regarding the proposed action is publicly available in ADAMS, which can be accessed online at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. The ADAMS Accession Numbers have been provided for the documents referenced in this letter.

Should you need to discuss the information in this e-mail, or any other matters related to this project, please reach out to me by phone at 301-415-0930 or email at diana.diaz-toro@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,
Diana

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