



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

AUG 05 2015

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

Ms. Amy Martin, SHPO/Director
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
1 Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1512

**Re: Consultation Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)
for an Air Permitting Project Proposed by Invenergy Nelson II LLC.**

Dear Ms. Martin:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the cultural resources assessment submitted by Mostardi Platt (MP) on behalf of Invenergy Nelson II LLC (Invenergy) on July 29, 2015, for a proposed modification of the Nelson Energy Center power plant located at 1311 Nelson Road, Rock Falls, Whiteside County, Illinois. EPA's regulations require Invenergy to obtain a federal construction permit under the Prevention of Significant Deterioration of air quality (PSD) permitting program, 40 C.F.R. § 52.21, prior to construction of the project. EPA has delegated to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) authority to issue PSD permits in Illinois. Invenergy has submitted its construction permit application to IEPA for the project.

In accordance with the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), EPA has determined that the proposed project is an "undertaking" as defined in 36 C.F.R. § 800.16(y). Consequently, EPA has initiated the Section 106 review process. The purpose of this letter is to (1) provide an overview of the undertaking; (2) describe the Area of Potential Effects (APE) and present EPA's finding of no historic properties affected; and (3) request your concurrence on this determination.

Overview of the Undertaking

Invenergy is proposing to add two Combustion Turbine Generators, each rated at approximately 190 megawatts, for peaking generation. Foundations for the two CTGs are already in place. The project will also include the addition of a new natural gas-fired fuel heater (rated at 15 million British thermal units per hour), a 1.5 million gallon ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel storage tank, and

a fuel oil unloading area with appropriate spill containment. No construction is proposed beyond the current facility boundary.

Area of Potential Effects

For purposes of this undertaking, the APE is the geographic area or areas where the proposed project may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist. 36 C.F.R. § 800.16(d). EPA has determined the APE for this undertaking to be the area within a one-mile radius of the project site. This is the area within which EPA would expect any adverse impacts from the project.

Finding of No Historic Properties Affected

In accordance with 36 C.F.R. § 800.4(b)(1), EPA and the applicant have undertaken “reasonable and good faith” efforts to identify historic properties located within the APE. These efforts included a review of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency Historic Architectural Resources Geographic Information System database for information on previously inventoried architectural properties within one mile of the Invenergy facility, and the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) to determine if any historic architectural properties within the APE are listed or eligible for listing in the NRHP. Based on these efforts, EPA finds that there are no historic properties located within the APE. Therefore, pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 800.4(d)(1), EPA is making a determination of “No Historic Properties Affected” for the undertaking.

By this letter, EPA is fulfilling its obligations pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA for the project’s permitting action currently before IEPA. If you have any questions with respect to this letter or disagree with this determination, please contact me at (312) 353-4761, or David Ogulei, of my staff, at (312) 353-0987.

Sincerely,

Susan Kraj for G/D.

Genevieve Damico
Chief
Air Permits Section

Enclosure: Invenergy NHPA Section 106 Assessment

cc: Ray Pilapil, IEPA
James M. Powell, MP (JPowell@mp-mail.com)