



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4005

RECEIVED
FEB 23 2004

February 18, 2004

Gail A. Carmody, Project Leader
Ecological Services &
Fisheries Resources Office
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1601 Balboa Avenue
Panama City, FL 32405

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR COMMENTS REGARDING DEPARTMENT OF AIR FORCE'S
DETERMINATION OF NO EFFECT

Dear Ms. Carmody:

By letter dated June 9, 2003, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) requested comments from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding any potential impacts to endangered and threatened species and critical habitats as a result of reclamation activities being conducted at Eglin Air Force Base. This information was necessary to allow the NRC to complete an environmental assessment of the proposed activities.

By letter dated July 7, 2003, you responded to our request. In your letter, you suggested that a biological information report be developed to determine whether the activities will directly, indirectly, and/or cumulatively affect such species or habitat.

The Department of the Air Force informed the NRC by letter dated February 11, 2004, that it had concluded that the proposed activities would have no effect on either species or habitat. A copy of that letter is enclosed. We request that you review the Air Force's decision, independently ascertain whether the decision was appropriate, and inform the NRC of whether the decision satisfies the recommendations addressed in your July 7, 2003, letter. Details of the Air Force's determination were discussed in a February 11, 2004, telephone conversation between Stan Simpkins of your staff and Robert Evans of the NRC's staff.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and your response will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1601 Balboa Avenue
Panama City, Florida 32405
(850) 769-0552 Fax (850) 763-2177

FWS Log No. 4-P-03-202

The proposed action is not likely to adversely affect resources protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). This finding fulfills the requirements of the Act.

Gail A. Carmody
Gail A. Carmody, Project Leader

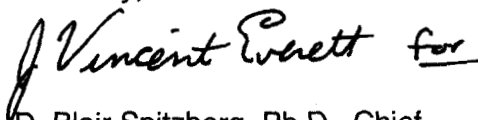
2-25-04
Date

Gail A. Carmody

-2-

If you require additional information, please contact Mr. Robert J. Evans, Senior Health Physicist, at (817) 860-8234 or the undersigned at (817) 860-8191.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vincent Everett for". The signature is written in a cursive style.

D. Blair Spitzberg, Ph.D., Chief
Fuel Cycle and Decommissioning Branch

Docket No.: 030-28641
License No.: 42-23539-01AF
Control No.: 469166

Enclosure:
Department of the Air Force's
letter dated February 11, 2004

cc w/enclosure:
Lt. Col. Kali Mather
Department of the Air Force
USAF Radioisotope Committee
HQ AFMOA/SGZR
110 Luke Avenue, Suite 405
Bolling AFB, DC 20322-7050

Florida Radiation Control Program Director