



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
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F/SER31: NB

Mr. David J. Wrona
Chief, Project Branch 2
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

MAR 1 - 2012

Dear Mr. Wrona:

This responds to your letter dated January 19, 2012, and list of federally-protected species which the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) believes may occur in the vicinity of the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station (GGNS) and its associated transmission lines, near Port Gibson, Mississippi, and may be affected by its operations. You requested our concurrence with the list, pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). We concur there are no species under NMFS' purview within the action area, but ESA-listed Gulf sturgeon are known to occur in the Mississippi River and have been collected upstream of the project site in the region of Vicksburg, Mississippi.¹ Responsibility for ESA consultation on activities occurring on the Mississippi River that may affect Gulf sturgeon has been delegated to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in the final rule designating Gulf sturgeon critical habitat (68 FR 13400); thus, consultation on potential impacts to this species from the renewal of GGNS's operating license should be coordinated with USFWS. Please contact Ms. Karen Harrington, USFWS Biologist, USFWS, 1601 Balboa Avenue, Panama City, Florida 32405-3721 (Tel: 850/769-0552).

Thank you for providing the opportunity to provide comment. We look forward to future cooperation with you to ensure the conservation of our threatened and endangered marine species and designated critical habitat. If you have any questions, please contact Nicole Bailey, ESA Consultant, at (727) 824-5336, or Nicole.Bailey@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

David Bernhart
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Protected Resources

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¹ Ross, S.T. 2001. The Inland Fishes of Mississippi. University Press of Mississippi, Jackson.

