



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

August 17, 2012

Mr. Daniel S. Morris
Acting Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Region
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL REVIEW TIME FOR
ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SECTION 7 CONSULTATION AT INDIAN
POINT NUCLEAR GENERATING UNIT NOS. 2 AND 3

Dear Mr. Morris:

We have reviewed your August 3, 2012, letter regarding extending the consultation period for the Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 consultation for Entergy Nuclear Operation's (Entergy's) Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit Nos. 2 (IP2) and 3 (IP3). As you indicated, on July 23, 2012, Entergy submitted a report to you with a copy to us that provides new information and a new hypothesis regarding the cause of impingement list sturgeon at IP2 and IP3. You have determined that, in accordance with 50 CFR 402.14(c-g), the consultation period should be extended to allow you time to review Entergy's report and determine how or if you should incorporate the information into the biological opinion that you are presently drafting. You asked if the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the staff) has any objection to this request and if NRC or Entergy intends to submit any additional information to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regarding the consultation.

The NRC staff has no plans to submit any additional information. We have consulted with Entergy, which has told us that it also has no plans to submit any additional information. The NRC staff is reviewing Entergy's report at this time. We have no objection to your request for an additional 60 days and recognize that an extension of greater than 60 days would require Entergy's consent. We understand that with this 60-day extension you anticipate providing the NRC a draft biological opinion on October 22 for a two-week review and completing consultation by November 28, 2012.

D. Morris

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We also look forward to working cooperatively with you and Entergy throughout the consultation. If you have any questions concerning this response, please contact Mr. Michael Wentzel, License Renewal Project Manager, by phone at 301-415-6459 or by e-mail at Michael.Wentzel@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Hull". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amy" and last name "Hull" clearly distinguishable.

Amy Hull, Ph.D., Acting Chief
Environment Review and
Guidance Update Branch
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-247 and 50-286

cc: Listserv

D. Morris

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We also look forward to working cooperatively with you and Entergy throughout the consultation. If you have any questions concerning this response, please contact Mr. Michael Wentzel, License Renewal Project Manager, by phone at 301-415-6459 or by e-mail at Michael.Wentzel@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Amy Hull, Ph.D., Acting Chief
Environment Review and
Guidance Update Branch
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-247 and 50-286

cc: Listserv

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