



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

LLOYD 500 BUILDING, SUITE 1692

500 N.E. MULTNOMAH STREET

PORTLAND, OREGON 97232

August 28, 1979

In reply refer to:
AFA-SE

Mr. Donald E. Sells
Acting Chief, Environmental Projects,
Branch 2
Division of Site Safety and Environmental
Analysis
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Sells:

As requested by your letter dated July 12, 1979, you will find attached a list of listed endangered and threatened species that may be present in the area of the proposed Skagit Nuclear Power Project and the transmission line right-of-way. To the best of our present knowledge, no proposed species are known to occur within the project area.

The list is intended to fulfill the requirement of the Fish and Wildlife Service to provide a list of species under Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act, as amended.

As you are aware, the 1978 amendments to the Act require Federal agencies that are planning construction projects to conduct a biological assessment for the purpose of identifying any proposed and/or listed endangered and threatened species which is/are likely to be affected by their proposal. This process is initiated by the construction agency in requesting a list of proposed and listed endangered and threatened species. The assessment should be completed within 180 days after initiation of the assessment (or within such a time period as is mutually agreed to by our two agencies). No irreversible commitment of resources is to be made during the biological assessment process which would result in violation of your requirement under Section 7(a) of the Act. Planning, design, and administrative actions may be taken by your agency; however, no construction may begin.

With regard to the biological assessment, Nuclear Regulatory Commission should conduct a comprehensive survey of the area to identify any listed species or species proposed to be listed, which may be affected by the construction project, and should determine the nature and extent

90-320

COOES/1

7909050 493

A

August 28, 1979
Page two

of impact that the proposed project may have on such species and should conduct any studies necessary to make such determination. Biological assessments should include: 1) the results of the comprehensive survey of the area; 2) the results of any studies undertaken to determine the nature and extent of any impacts on identified species; 3) the agency's consideration of cumulative effects on the species or its Critical Habitat; 4) the study methods used; 5) difficulties encountered in obtaining data and completing the proposed study; 6) conclusions of the agency including recommendations as to further studies; and 7) any other relevant information.

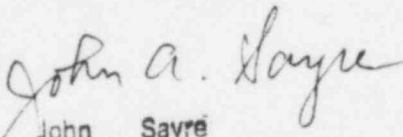
Upon completion of the biological assessment, should you determine that a listed species is likely to be affected (adversely or beneficially), then your agency should request formal Section 7 consultation through this office.

Should you have any additional questions regarding your responsibilities under the Act, please contact our Boise Area Manager at:

L.A. Mehrhoff
4620 Overland Road, Room 238
Boise, Idaho 83705
Phone: FTS 554-1960

We thank you for your interest in endangered species, and we await your assessment.

Sincerely yours,


John A. Sayre
Acting Regional Director

96-321

LISTED AND PROPOSED ENDANGERED AND
THREATENED SPECIES, AND CANDIDATE
SPECIES THAT MAY OCCUR IN
THE AREA OF THE PROPOSED SKAGIT
NUCLEAR POWER PROJECT

LISTED SPECIES

Bald Eagle (Threatened)

Peregrine Falcon (Endangered)

PROPOSED SPECIES

None

CANDIDATE SPECIES

None