



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

Ms. Helen N. Pastis
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

AUG 22 2000

Dear Ms. Pastis:

This is in regards to GPU Nuclear's letter on August 3, 2000, requesting the renewal of the Biological Opinion and Incidental Take Statement for the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station in Ocean County, New Jersey. The previous Biological Opinion was issued on September 21, 1995, and the Incidental Take Statement for this facility expires on September 21, 2000.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has received the Biological Assessment for this project titled "Assessment of the Impacts of the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station on Kemp's Ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*), Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), and Atlantic Green (*Chelonia mydas*) Sea Turtles." As you know, consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act is between the NMFS and the federal action agency, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in this case. The purpose of this letter is to request that the NRC reinitiate consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, given that the term of the Incidental Take Statement will be expiring within a month. The NMFS will not begin the process of reinitiation until we receive the request and supporting information from the NRC.

If you have any questions concerning the reinitiation of this project or the Section 7 consultation process in general, please contact Carrie McDaniel of my staff at (978) 281-9388.

Sincerely,

Christopher Mantzaris
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Protected Resources

cc: Malcolm Brown, Oyster Creek NGS
Sander Levin, Oyster Creek NGS
Hubert Miller, NRC Region 1
James Wilson, NRC

File Code: 1514-05 (A). NRC - Oyster Creek

