

October 20, 2003

Mr. Steven Anschutz
Nebraska Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services Office, Nebraska Field Office
203 West Second Street
Federal Building, 2nd Floor
Grand Island, Nebraska 68801

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE LETTER OF
OCTOBER 2, 2003, ACKNOWLEDGING COMPLETION OF THE INFORMAL
CONSULTATION PROCESS, FOR THE FORT CALHOUN STATION, UNIT 1,
LICENSE RENEWAL (TAC NO. MB3402)

Dear Mr. Anschutz:

On October 2, 2003, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff received a letter from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). The letter provided the results of the meetings between the Service and the Omaha Public Power District (OPPD), the licensee of the Fort Calhoun Station, Unit 1 (FCS). The purpose of the meetings was to discuss the Service's request for a pallid sturgeon larval monitoring study or structural modifications at the FCS. The meeting resulted in the Service and OPPD agreeing that instead of a larval monitoring study or structural modifications, OPPD would fund a pallid sturgeon habitat restoration/conservation project on the Missouri River. The project involves notching of the revetments and/or wing dikes along the Missouri River within the boundaries of the DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge or other pallid sturgeon habitat restoration/conservation projects mutually agreed upon by OPPD, the Service, and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

Based on OPPD's agreement to complete the conservation measure, the Service concurred that the proposed federal action is not likely to adversely affect the pallid sturgeon. The Service requested that their October 2, 2003, be placed on the FCS docket, and that the NRC provide a docketed response acknowledging the letter closing the informal consultation process.

The NRC has placed the Service's October 2, 2003, letter on the FCS docket. This letter is the docketed response acknowledging closing of informal consultation process.

The NRC would like to express its appreciation for the timely response by the Service on this issue. Messrs. Joseph Cothorn and John Dunn of the Environmental Protection Agency were also very helpful in providing information to the NRC during the consultation process.

If you have any questions, please contact the environmental license renewal project manager, Jack Cushing, by telephone at (301) 415-1424 or by e-mail at jxc9@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,
/RAI

Pao-Tsin Kuo, Program Director
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No.: 50-285

cc: See next page

If you have any questions, please contact the environmental license renewal project manager, Jack Cushing, by telephone at (301) 415-1424 or by e-mail at jxc9@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,
/RAI

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cc: See next page

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Environmental R/F

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* See previous concurrence

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Ft. Calhoun Station, Unit 1

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