



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Rock Island Field Office
4469 48th Avenue Court
Rock Island, Illinois 61201
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IN REPLY REFER
TO:

FWS/RIFO

50-237/249

March 11, 2004

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Pao-Tsin Kuo, Program Director
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Pao-Tsin Kuo:

This is in response to the Biological Assessment (BA) for the proposed Dresden Nuclear Power Station license renewal which was received in our office on February 13, 2004. The BA references ten species which are listed as either federally threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

The following federally listed species are covered under the referenced BA: Endangered leafy prairie clover (*Dalea foliosa*), Hine's emerald dragonfly (*Somatochlora hineana*), Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Threatened Mead's milkweed (*Asclepias meadii*), decurrent false aster (*Boltonia decurrens*), lakeside daisy (*Hymenoxys herbacea*), prairie bush clover (*Lespedeza leptostachya*), eastern prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), Candidate eastern massasauga rattlesnake (*Sistrurus catenatus*).


As outlined in the BA, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has made a determination of 'no effect' for decurrent false aster, leafy prairie-clover, lakeside daisy, and Hine's emerald dragonfly. NRC has also made a determination of 'not likely to adversely affect' for Mead's milkweed, prairie bush clover, eastern prairie fringed orchid, eastern massasauga rattlesnake, Indiana bat, and the bald eagle.

Based on existing information and that which was provided in the BA, we concur with your findings that the proposed project will have no effect and not likely to adversely effect the respective federally listed endangered species. Should the project be modified or new information indicate endangered species may be affected, consultation should be initiated.

A097

This letter provides comments under the authority of and in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.); and the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. If you have any questions about our comments or recommendations please contact Kraig McPeck of my staff at 309-793-5800, ext. 210.

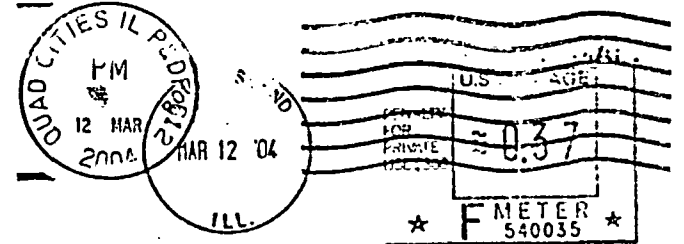
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard C. Nelson", written in a cursive style.

Richard C. Nelson
Supervisor

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
4469-48TH AVENUE COURT
ROCK ISLAND, IL 61201

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