



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southwest Region
501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200
Long Beach, California 90802- 4213

In Reply, Refer to: 151401SWR04PR13815:JSK

Mr. Pao-Tsin Kuo
Program Director
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

MAR 18 2004

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Dear Mr. Kuo:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) has received your letter dated February 4, 2004, requesting a listing of all endangered, threatened, proposed, or candidate species under NOAA Fisheries' jurisdiction that may be present near the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Generating Station located in San Luis Obispo County. We understand that since 1994 approximately 7 threatened or endangered sea turtles have been entrained in the cooling water intake system of the Diablo Canyon facility and that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will be entering into formal consultation under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

To better examine the effects of the Diablo Canyon facility on sea turtles as well as other threatened or endangered species, NOAA Fisheries recommends that the NRC evaluate the potential for adverse impacts to the following species which may be present in the area near the Diablo Canyon facility.

The species of threatened or endangered sea turtles that may occur in the vicinity of the Diablo Canyon facility include:

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
Green sea turtle	<u>Chelonia mydas</u>	Threatened
Leatherback sea turtle	<u>Dermochelys coriacea</u>	Endangered
Loggerhead sea turtle	<u>Caretta caretta</u>	Threatened
Olive Ridley sea turtle	<u>Lepidochelys olivacea</u>	Threatened

Endangered or threatened marine mammals that occur offshore from the project area include:

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
Blue whale	<u>Balaenoptera musculus</u>	Endangered
Sperm whale	<u>Physeter macrocephalus</u>	Endangered
Fin whale	<u>Balaenoptera physalus</u>	Endangered
Humpback whale	<u>Megaptera novaeangliae</u>	Endangered

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Sei whale	<u>Balaenoptera borealis</u>	Endangered
Guadalupe fur seal	<u>Arctocephalus townsendi</u>	Threatened
Steller sea lion	<u>Eumetopias jubatus</u>	Threatened

In addition to the marine mammals and sea turtles, NOAA Fisheries also has some listed salmonid species under its jurisdiction. Salmonids are anadromous fish, splitting their time between fresh water and salt water. It is possible that salmonids could become entrained in the intake structure of the power plant facility. Salmonid species that could be found in the vicinity of the Diablo Canyon facility include two Evolutionarily Significant Units of Steelhead, (Oncorhynchus mykiss), Southern California steelhead and South-Central Coast steelhead.

In the event that the continued operation of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Generating Station appears to be affecting any of the species mentioned above, we recommend further consultation be initiated. Please contact Jessica Kondel at 562-980-3230 or Jessica.Kondel@noaa.gov if you have any questions regarding this letter or you require any additional information.

Sincerely,


for Rodney R. McInnis
Acting Regional Administrator

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