

June 8, 2004

Ms. Margaret Harney
Senior Field Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office
1500 Museum Road, Suite 105
Conway, AR 72032

SUBJECT: BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT FOR LICENSE RENEWAL OF ARKANSAS
NUCLEAR ONE, UNIT 2, AND A REQUEST FOR INFORMAL CONSULTATION
(TAC NO. MB8405)

Dear Ms. Harney:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has prepared the enclosed biological assessment (BA) to evaluate whether the proposed renewal of the operating license for Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2 (ANO-2) for an additional 20 years would have adverse effects on listed species. The proposed action (license renewal) is not a major construction activity. ANO-2 is located on Lake Dardanelle, upstream of the Dardanelle Lock and Dam on the Arkansas River at river mile 205.5.

By letter dated December 9, 2003, the NRC requested a list of Federally threatened or endangered species that may be in the vicinity of ANO-2 and its associated transmission lines. In a letter dated January 14, 2004, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) provided a list of Federally listed species. The FWS identified one threatened species, the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), and one endangered species, the least tern (*Sterna antillarum*), as being present in the vicinity of the project area, but stated that the ANO-2 license renewal is not likely to impact any listed species.

The NRC, for documentation purposes, has included all species mentioned in the ANO-2 Environmental Report in the enclosed BA. The NRC included, in addition to the aforementioned species, the gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*) and the Arkansas River shiner (*Notropis girardi*). This BA provides an evaluation of the potential impact of relicensing ANO-2 for an additional 20 years of operation on the four listed species (Table 1 of enclosed BA).

The NRC has determined that the proposed action will have no effect on gray bats (*Myotis grisescens*), bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), least terns (*Sterna antillarum*), and Arkansas River shiners (*Notropis girardi*). No critical habitat has been designated in Arkansas for these four listed species.

We are placing this BA in our project files and are requesting your concurrence with our determination. In reaching our conclusion, the NRC staff relied on information provided by the licensee, on research performed by NRC staff, and information from FWS (i.e., including information provided by the FWS, Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office).

M. Harney

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If you have any questions regarding this BA or the staff's request, please contact Mr. Thomas Kenyon, Senior Environmental Project Manager, at (301) 415-1120.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

Docket No.: 50-368

Enclosure: Biological Assessment

M. Harney

2

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Sincerely,

/RA/

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

Docket No.: 50-368

Enclosure: Biological Assessment

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Accession nos.:

1. Ltr to M. Harney, w/Svc. List: ML041610066
2. Biological Assessment: ML041560229
3. Pkg: ML041610069

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DATE	5/19/04	5/19/04	5/20/04	5/ /04	6/7/04	6/8/04

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