



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

East Lansing Field Office (ES)
2651 Coolidge Road, Suite 101
East Lansing, Michigan 48823-6316

IN REPLY REFER TO:

July 20, 2004

James Shepard, Project Engineer
United States Regulatory Commission
Washington D.C. 20555-0001

Re: Endangered Species List Request, Proposed Decommissioning of the Big Rock Nuclear Power Plant, near Charlevoix, Michigan

Dear Mr. Shepard:

Thank you for your May 20, 2004 request for information on endangered, threatened, proposed, or candidate species and critical habitat which may be present within the proposed project area. Your request and this response are made pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (the Act), as amended, (87 Stat. 884, 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Based on information presently available, there are no endangered, threatened, proposed, or candidate species, or critical habitat occurring within the proposed project areas. This presently precludes the need for further action on this project as required under section 7 of the Act.

We advise, however, that should a species become officially listed or proposed before completion of this project, the federal action agency for the work would be required to reevaluate its responsibilities under the Act. Should new information become available that indicates listed or proposed species may be present and/or affected, consultation should be initiated with this office.

Since threatened and endangered species data is continually updated, new information pertaining to this project may become available which may modify these recommendations. Therefore, we recommend your agency annually request updates to this list.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments. Please refer any questions directly to Burr Fisher at 517/351-8286 or burr_fisher@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Czarnecki
Field Supervisor

cc: Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division, Lansing, MI
(Attn: Lori Sargent)

g: admin/archives/july04/bigrocknuclearpower.bdf.wpd