



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Twin Cities Field Office

4101 East 80th Street

Bloomington, Minnesota 55425-1665

JUL 13 2005

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

Dear Mr. Kuo:

This responds to your June 3, 2005, letter, requesting a list of federally threatened or endangered species and information on proposed and candidate species and critical habitat that may be in the vicinity of the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant. The project site is located on the right descending bank of the Mississippi River just upriver of Monticello in the NE1/4 of the SE1/4 of Section 32, T122N, R25W, Wright County, Minnesota. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is currently reviewing an application submitted by Nuclear Management Company, LLC (NMC) for the renewal of the operating license for the Monticello plant. NMC has applied for a 20 year extension on its current operating license, which expires in 2010.

In addition to the nuclear generating plant, the project also consists of two transmission lines. The Coon Creek line extends from the facility across the Mississippi River to Sherburne County and then east to Anoka County and south to the city of Coon Creek. The Parkers Lake line extends from the facility southeast through Wright County to Hennepin County and then south to Parkers Lake in the city of Plymouth. As part of the license renewal application, the NRC is preparing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended.

The Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended, requires Federal agencies to consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on proposed actions that may affect federally-listed threatened and endangered species and listed critical habitat. The following listed species may be present in the action area:

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Counties</u>
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	threatened	Anoka, Hennepin Sherburne, Wright
Gray wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>	threatened	Sherburne
Higgins' eye pearlymussel	<i>Lampsilis higginsii</i>	endangered	Hennepin

As the lead Federal agency for the proposed action, the NRC is responsible for reviewing the proposed action and determining whether the action may affect any of the above listed species. If the NRC determines that the proposed action may adversely affect any federally listed species then it must notify the Service and initiate consultation under section 7(a)(2) of the Act.

If you have questions regarding our comments, please call Mr. R. Nicholas Rowse of my staff at (612) 725-3548, extension 210 or by email at nick_rowse@fws.gov.

Sincerely,



Dan P. Stinnett
Field Supervisor