

November 1, 2005

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Attention: Dr. Mary Knapp, Field Supervisor
6950-H American Parkway
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-4127

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR CONCURRENCE ON DETERMINATION OF EFFECT ON
FEDERALLY LISTED SPECIES AND CRITICAL HABITAT FOR USEC INC.'S
PROPOSED AMERICAN CENTRIFUGE PLANT IN PIKE COUNTY, OHIO

Dear Dr. Knapp:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has received a license application from USEC, Inc. (USEC) which would entail the construction, operation, and decommissioning of a gas centrifuge uranium enrichment facility known as the American Centrifuge Plant (ACP). This proposed facility would be located at the Department of Energy (DOE) reservation in Piketon, Ohio. USEC's license application contained a list of species from your office dated June 21, 2004. Mr. Matthew Blevins of the NRC staff received a telephone confirmation of this list from Mr. Jeromy Applegate on August 30, 2005.

The DOE reservation lies within the range of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), listed as endangered, and the timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*), for which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has initiated a pre-listing Conservation Action Plan.

The DOE reservation consists of approximately 3,700 acres which includes a 1,300 acre central area surrounded by Perimeter Road. The proposed ACP would be primarily situated on approximately 200 acres of the southwest quadrant of the central area. Most site developments are located within the fenced central area, which is largely devoid of trees, with grass and paved roadways dominating the open space. Additionally, one cylinder storage yard would be built to support the proposed ACP outside the central area on the north side of the DOE reservation directly adjoining Perimeter Road. As shown on the enclosed map, USEC intends to make use of some existing facilities (denoted by blue shading on the enclosed map) and will construct the remaining facilities (denoted by green on the enclosed map). The land outside the Perimeter Road but still within the reservation is used for a variety of purposes, including a water treatment plant, lagoons for the process wastewater treatment plant, sanitary and inert landfills, and open and forested buffer areas.

The timber rattlesnake occurs in the vicinity of the DOE reservation but has not been observed at the site. The timber rattlesnake is found on and near high, dry ridges. Habitat for the timber rattlesnake does not occur within the central area of the DOE reservation nor the area just outside Perimeter Road where the new cylinder yard would be constructed.

Previous studies, conducted by DOE in 1994 and 1996, have not documented the presence of the Indiana bat on the DOE reservation at Piketon, but have identified potential summertime habitat on the reservation which is identified by pink shading on the enclosed map. The Indiana bat typically roosts beneath the bark of large dead or dying trees with loose exfoliating bark, or

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live trees with loose bark. Roost trees are generally located in riparian forest, bottomland floodplain forest, and upland forest. The proposed cylinder storage yard (just north of the central area) is approximately 1,600 feet from the nearest potential summer habitat for the Indiana bat (Enclosure). However, the construction of the proposed cylinder storage yard would only remove grassland and old field habitats and would preserve the existing upland mixed hardwood and riparian forests that act as a buffer between the proposed storage yard and the potential summertime habitat.

After a review of the potential impacts of the proposed ACP, the NRC has concluded there would be no effect on the Indiana bat, Timber rattlesnake, or any listed critical habitat. We request your concurrence and any comments you may have with regard to NRC's determination of no effect. If you any questions or comments, or need additional information, please contact Mr. Matthew Blevins at (301) 415-7684.

Sincerely,

/RA/

B. Jennifer Davis, Chief
Environmental Review Section
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 70-7004

Enclosure: Map of DOE reservation and Indiana bat habitat

cc: See attached list

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