United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Marion Illinois Suboffice (ES)
8588 Route 148
Marion, IL 62959
(618) 997-3344

October 14, 2005

Ms. Jennifer Davis, Chief
Environmental Review Section
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mailstop T-7J08
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Ms. Davis:

In order to facilitate compliance with Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, and to assist your staff, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has been requested to provide a list of federal threatened, endangered or proposed species that may occur in the vicinity of the Metropolis Works (MTW) facility located in Massac County, Illinois. The information is requested to assist the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff's review of the renewal of MTW facility's Source Material License for a period of 10 years. Therefore, we are furnishing you the following list of species that may be present in the project area:

Classification	Common Name (Scientific Name)	Habitat
Endangered	Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*)	Caves, mines; small stream corridors with well developed riparian woods; upland and bottomland forests
Endangered	Least tern (*Sterna antillarum*)	Bare alluvial and dredge spoil islands
Endangered	Fat pocketbook pearlymussel (*Potalimus capax*)	Rivers
Endangered	Pink mucket pearlymussel (*Lampsilis orbiculata*)	Rivers
Endangered	Orange-footed pearlymussel (*Plethobasus cooperianus*)	Rivers

Classification	Common Name (Scientific Name)	Habitat
Candidate	Sheepnose (*Plethobasus cyphyus*)	Rivers
Candidate	Spectaclecase (*Cumberlandia monodonta*)	Rivers

There is no designated critical habitat in the project area at this time.

The endangered Indiana bat has been noted as occurring in several Illinois counties. Potential habitat for this species occurs statewide, therefore, Indiana bats are considered to potentially occur in any area with forested habitat. Indiana bats migrate seasonally between winter hibernacula and summer roosting habitats. Winter hibernacula include caves and abandoned mines. Females emerge from hibernation in late March or early April to migrate to summer roosts. Females form nursery colonies under the loose bark of trees (dead or alive) and/or cavities, where each female gives birth to a single young in June or early July. A maternity colony may include from one to 100 individuals. A single colony may utilize a number of roost trees during the summer, typically a primary roost tree and several alternates. Some males remain in the area near the winter hibernacula during the summer months, but others disperse throughout the range of the species and roost individually or in small numbers in the same types of trees as females. The species or size of tree does not appear to influence whether Indiana bats utilize a tree for roosting provided the appropriate bark structure is present. However, the use of a particular tree does appear to be influenced by weather conditions, such as temperature and precipitation.

During the summer, the Indiana bat frequents the corridors of small streams with well-developed riparian woods, as well as mature lowland and upland forests. It forages for insects along stream corridors, within the canopy of floodplain and upland forests, over clearings with early successional vegetation (old fields), along the borders of crop lands, along wooded fence rows, and over farm ponds and in pastures. However, although Indiana bats will forage over small openings, they generally prefer forested areas.

The least tern occurs in several Illinois counties along the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. It nests on bare alluvial or dredge spoil islands and sand/gravel bars in or adjacent to rivers, lakes, gravel pits and powerplant cooling ponds. It nests in colonies with other least terns and sometimes with the piping plover. This species forages in shallow water areas along the river and in backwater areas, such as side channels and sloughs. Foraging habitat must be located in close proximity to nesting habitat.

The fat pocketbook pearlymussel occurs in the Ohio, Wabash, and Little Wabash Rivers within several Illinois counties. This species utilizes sand substrates and may be found individually or

in beds with other species. Instream activities in these rivers will typically require a mussel survey (including dive surveys) to determine if fat pocketbooks are present.

The pink mucket pearlymussel occurs in the Ohio River in Massac County and may potentially occur in other Illinois counties bordering the Ohio River. This species inhabits gravel and sand substrates in moderate to fast-flowing water. Instream activities in the Ohio River will typically require a mussel survey to determine if the pink mucket pearlymussel is present.

The orange-footed pearlymussel occurs in the Ohio River in Massac and Pulaski Counties and may potentially occur in other Illinois counties bordering the Ohio River. This species inhabits gravel or mixed sand and gravel substrates. Instream activities in the Ohio River will typically require a mussel survey to determine if the orange-footed pearlymussel is present.

The sheepnose is listed as a candidate species and occurs in several counties bordering the Mississippi, Ohio, Wabash, Illinois, Rock, and Sangamon Rivers. Along the Ohio River, this species is found in Massac County, Illinois. The sheepnose inhabits patches of sand and gravel, in medium to large rivers.

The spectaclecase occurs in the several counties bordering the Mississippi River in northwestern Illinois. It also occurs in the Wabash River in Wabash and White Counties, Illinois and the Ohio River in Massac County, Illinois. The species may potentially occur in other Illinois counties bordering the Mississippi, Ohio, and Wabash Rivers. The spectaclecase inhabits patches of sand, gravel, and cobble in areas of reduced current.

These comments provide technical assistance only. The Service will make comments on the proposed license renewal based upon our review of the Environmental Assessment or any other environmental document that may be prepared.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information concerning threatened and endangered species. If you have any questions, please contact Mike Thomas of my staff at (618) 997-3344, ext. 345.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Thomas

for Joyce A. Collins
Assistant Field Supervisor

cc: IDNR (Rettig)