



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southwest Region
501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200
Long Beach, California 90802- 4213

MAR 21 2006

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

Dear Mr. Kuo:

On July 20, 2005, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) entered into formal consultation under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) on the possible effects of continued operation of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP) and San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) Cooling Water Systems on ESA-listed species managed by NMFS. DCPP is operated by Pacific Gas & Electric under licenses issued and administered by the NRC. SONGS is operated by Southern California Edison and is also licensed by the NRC.

On December 1, 2005, we sent you a letter requesting an extension of time to prepare the biological opinion for the DCPP and SONGS. We had expected to be able to provide the biological opinion by March 31, 2006, however due to limited staff resources we are asking for an extension which will allow us to adequately utilize all available information in preparation of the biological opinion. The biological opinion would be issued by May 31, 2006.

We look forward to your response to our request for an extension by March 31, 2006. If you have any questions or concerns about this consultation or the consultation process, please contact Jessica Kondel at (562) 980-3230 or Jessica.Kondel@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

for Rodney R. McInnis
Regional Administrator

