



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
New England Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-5087



May 23, 2006

Rani Franovich
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Ms. Franovich:

We are in receipt of your April 25, 2006 letter regarding the license renewal process for the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station, Plymouth, Massachusetts. This office received and responded to a letter dated February 3, 2005 that requested an informal consultation with regard to federally-threatened and endangered species from the applicant, Entergy Nuclear Generation Company. Enclosed is a copy of our response, dated March 9, 2005. In addition, we have no comments with regard to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

Thank you for your coordination. Please contact Anthony Tur at 603-223-2541 if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Michael J. Amaral
Endangered Species Specialist
New England Field Office

Enclosure



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05-284

March 9, 2005

Stephen Bethay
Entergy Nuclear Generation Company
600 Rocky Hill Road
Plymouth, MA 02360

Dear Mr. Bethay:

We are in receipt of your February 3, 2005 letter regarding the license renewal process for the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station (PNPS), Plymouth, Massachusetts. The following comments are provided in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543).

The federally-threatened piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) and federally-endangered roseate tern (*Sterna dougallii*) are known to occur along Plymouth Beach, just north of the PNPS. Occasional wintering bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) are also sometimes present in the area. According to our records, none of the above-listed species are known to frequent the immediate vicinity of PNPS and, therefore, the presence of these species near the power station is probably transient in nature.

As stated in your letter, the PNPS-to-Snake Hill Road transmission corridor crosses critical habitat for the endangered red-bellied cooter (*Pseudemys rubriventris*). We concur with your determination that the area crossed by the transmission line does not provide the specific biological habitat needs for the red-bellied cooter. However, turtles may traverse the transmission line corridor and the area is considered critical based on its value to buffer against activities that may degrade water quantity and quality in ponds occupied by the species.

Information was provided regarding several marine mammals and turtles. Jurisdiction for those species resides with the National Marine Fisheries Service. We suggest you contact them at their Gloucester, Massachusetts office at 978-281-9300 with regard to the relicensing of the PNPS.

Since no expansion of existing facilities is planned and no additional land disturbance is anticipated, we concur with your determination that license renewal for PNPS is not likely to adversely affect federally-listed species subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and that formal consultation with us is not required.

Thank you for your coordination. Please contact us at 603-223-2541 if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael J. Amaral".

Michael J. Amaral
Endangered Species Specialist
New England Field Office