



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
NORTHEAST REGION  
One Blackburn Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

OCT 18 2006

Frank Gillespie, Director  
Division of License Renewal  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Program  
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

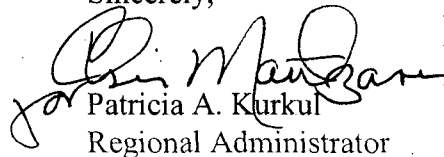
Dear Mr. Gillespie,

On June 9, 2006, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) entered into formal Section 7 consultation on the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) proposed renewal of the operating license for the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (OCNGS). The facility's current license expires on April 9, 2009 and the NRC proposes to renew the license for an additional 20 years. The 135-day consultation period expires on October 28, 2006.

As you may know, NMFS staff met with NRC staff and the applicant (AmerGen Energy, LLC) on September 19, 2006 at OCNGS. In order to incorporate information obtained at this meeting into the ongoing consultation, NMFS has requested an additional 30 days to complete the consultation. This would result in a Biological Opinion being issued to NRC by November 27, 2006. At the September 19, 2006 meeting, Harriet Nash of your staff and Malcolm Browne of AmerGen concurred with the need to extend the consultation period.

If you have any questions or concerns about this extension or the consultation process in general, please contact Julie Crocker of my staff at (978)281-9300 ext. 6530. We look forward to continuing to work with your office during the formal consultation process.

Sincerely,

  
Patricia A. Kurkul  
Regional Administrator

cc: Harriet Nash, NRC  
Malcolm Browne, AmerGen  
Williams, GCNE

File Code: Section 7 NRC New Jersey - Oyster Creek NGS 2006 consultation  
PCTS: F/NER/2006/05114

*SUBST  
review  
Completed*

