



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Pennsylvania Field Office
315 South Allen Street, Suite 322
State College, Pennsylvania 16801-4850

November 20, 2007

Rani Franovich
Projects Branch 2
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

RE: USFWS Project #2008-0311

Dear Mr. Franovich:

This responds to your letter of November 2, 2007, requesting information about federally listed and proposed endangered and threatened species within the area affected by the proposed license renewal application for the Beaver Valley power station located in Beaver County, Pennsylvania. The following comments are provided pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) to ensure the protection of endangered and threatened species.

Except for occasional transient species, no federally listed or proposed threatened or endangered species under our jurisdiction are known to occur within the project impact area. Therefore, based on currently available information, no biological assessment or further consultation under the Endangered Species Act is required with the Fish and Wildlife Service. Should project plans change, or if additional information on listed or proposed species becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered.

Please note that a field survey may reveal previously undocumented populations of one or more species of concern within a project area. Refer to the enclosed list of *Federally Listed, Proposed, and Candidate Species in Pennsylvania* to determine which species may be found in your project area if suitable habitat is present. If surveys or further information reveals that a federally listed, proposed, or candidate species exists in your project area, contact the Fish and Wildlife Service immediately to discuss measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts to the species prior to initiating your project.

This determination is valid for one year from the date of this letter. If the proposed project has not been fully implemented prior to this, please access the PNDI Project Planning Environmental Review tool on the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program's website (www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us) to screen this project for potential impacts to species of special concern, including federally listed and proposed species. If this project is considered a "large project" as defined on the subject website, submit the project directly to our office for review, rather than using the online screening tool.

This response relates only to endangered or threatened species under our jurisdiction, based on an office review of the proposed project's location. No field inspection of the project area has been conducted by this office. Consequently, this letter is not to be construed as addressing potential Service concerns under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act or other authorities.

To avoid potential delays in reviewing your project, please use the above-referenced USFWS project tracking number in any future correspondence regarding this project.

Please contact Kathy Gipe of my staff at 814-234-4090 if you have any questions or require further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Densmore", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David Densmore
Supervisor

Enclosure

Federally Listed, Proposed, and Candidate Species in Pennsylvania

(revised August 15, 2007)

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status¹</u>	<u>Distribution (Counties and/or Watersheds)</u>
MAMMALS			
Indiana bat	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	E	Hibernacula: Armstrong, Beaver, Blair, Centre, Fayette, Huntingdon, Lawrence, Luzerne, Mifflin and Somerset Co. Maternity sites: Bedford, Berks and Blair Counties. Potential winter habitat state-wide in caves or abandoned mines. Potential summer habitat state-wide in forests or wooded areas.
BIRDS			
Piping plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	E	Designated critical habitat on Presque Isle (Erie Co.). Migratory. No nesting in PA since 1950s, but recent colonization attempts at Presque Isle
REPTILES			
Bog turtle	<i>Clemmys (Glyptemys) muhlenbergii</i>	T	Adams, Berks, Bucks, Chester, Cumberland, Delaware, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Schuylkill and York Co. <i>Historically found in Crawford, Mercer and Philadelphia Co.</i>
Eastern massasauga rattlesnake	<i>Sistrurus catenatus catenatus</i>	C	Butler, Crawford, Mercer and Venango Co. <i>Historically found in Allegheny and Lawrence Co.</i>
MUSSELS			
Clubshell	<i>Pleurobema clava</i>	E	French Creek and Allegheny River (and some tributaries) in Armstrong, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Mercer, Venango, and Warren Co.; Shenango River (Mercer and Crawford Co.) <i>Has not been found recently in 13 streams of historical occurrence in Butler, Beaver, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, and Westmoreland Co.</i>
Dwarf wedgemussel	<i>Alasmidonta heterodon</i>	E	Delaware River (Pike and Wayne Co.) <i>Has not been found recently in streams of historical occurrence in the Delaware River watershed (Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Philadelphia Co.) or Susquehanna River watershed (Lancaster Co.)</i>
Northern riffleshell	<i>Epioblasma torulosa rangiana</i>	E	French Creek and Allegheny River (and some tributaries) in Armstrong, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Mercer, Venango, and Warren Co. <i>Has not been found recently in streams of historical occurrence, including: Shenango River (Lawrence Co.), Conewango Creek (Warren Co.)</i>

Common Name Scientific Name Status¹ Distribution (Counties and/or Watersheds)

MUSSELS

(continued)

Rayed bean *Villosa fabalis* C French Creek and Allegheny River (Armstrong, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Mercer, Venango, Warren Co.); Cussewago Creek (Crawford Co.).

Has not been found recently in 5 streams of historical occurrence in Armstrong, Lawrence, Mercer and Warren Co.

Sheepnose *Plethobasus cyphus* C Allegheny River (Forest and Venango Co.).

Has not been found recently in streams of historical occurrence, including: Allegheny River (Armstrong Co.), Beaver River (Lawrence Co.), Ohio River (Allegheny and Beaver Co.), and Monongahela River (Washington Co.)

FISH

Shortnose sturgeon² *Acipenser brevirostrum* E Delaware River and other Atlantic coastal waters

PLANTS

Northeastern bulrush *Scirpus ancistrochaetus* E Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Carbon, Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Lycoming, Mifflin, Monroe, Perry, Snyder, Tioga, and Union Co.

Historically found in Northampton Co.

Small-whorled pogonia *Isotria medeoloides* T Centre, Chester and Venango Co.

Historically found in Berks, Greene, Monroe, Montgomery and Philadelphia Co.

¹ E = Endangered; T = Threatened; P = Proposed for listing; C = Candidate

² Shortnose sturgeon is under the jurisdiction of the National Marine Fisheries Service

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
315 South Allen Street, Suite 322
State College, PA 16801-4850

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



UNITED STATES POSTAGE
OFFICIAL MAIL
PENALTY FOR
PRIVATE USE \$300
PITNEY BOWES
02 1P
\$ 000.41⁰
0002217310 NOV 21 2007
MAILED FROM ZIP CODE 16801

11/21

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Division of License Renewal
ATTN: Rani Franovich
Chief, Projects Branch 2
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

20555+0001

