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July 12, 2006

Dr. Stephania Bolden National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Regional Office 263 13th Avenue South St. Petersburg, FL 33701

<u>Subject</u>: Grand Gulf Nuclear Station COL Application Request for Information on Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species

Dear Dr. Bolden:

We plan to submit an application for a combined license (COL) from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC) to construct and operate a new nuclear power generation facility at the existing Grand Gulf Nuclear Station (GGNS) site in Claiborne County, Mississippi. GGNS is located on the east bank of the Mississippi River at River Mile 406 near Port Gibson, Mississippi, about 25 miles south of Vicksburg.

Figure 1 (attached) shows the general location of GGNS as well as notable features in the surrounding area. It is reprinted from Figure 1-1 (Region within 80km (50 Miles) of the Proposed Grand Gulf Early Site Permit Site) in USNRC (2006).

In accordance with USNRC's regulations for submitting a COL Application, we are currently preparing an Environmental Report (ER). Among other key issues, the ER will assess the impact of the construction and operation of the nuclear power generation facility on "important species" including those that are Federally listed (or proposed for listing) as threatened or endangered species or as species of special concern.

Table 2-9 (Federally Listed Aquatic Species Occurring in the Vicinity of the Grand Gulf Early Site Permit Site) in USNRC (2006) lists only the threatened Gulf

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sturgeon (Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi) as a species then under the jurisdiction of your agency.

I understand from our telephone conversation yesterday, that the Gulf sturgeon is now under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for activities on the Mississippi River and intend to consult with Mr. Jerry Ziewitz concerning the species.

However, please advise if we should consider any other species under your legal jurisdiction in our analysis. Additionally, please provide us with any information in your possession showing known occurrences of these species, if any, in the project area.

Thank you very much for your support and assistance. Please call me at the number below if you have any questions concerning this request.

Sincerely,

William P. Wenstrom, Ph.D. Wildlife Biologist 719-846-7457

Attachment – Figure 1 General Location Map

Reference

USNRC (U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission). 2006. (Final) Environmental Impact Statement for an Early Site Permit (ESP) at the Grand Gulf ESP Site (NUREG-1817). USNRC, Division of License Renewal, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001, April. Available at <u>www.nrc.gov</u>.

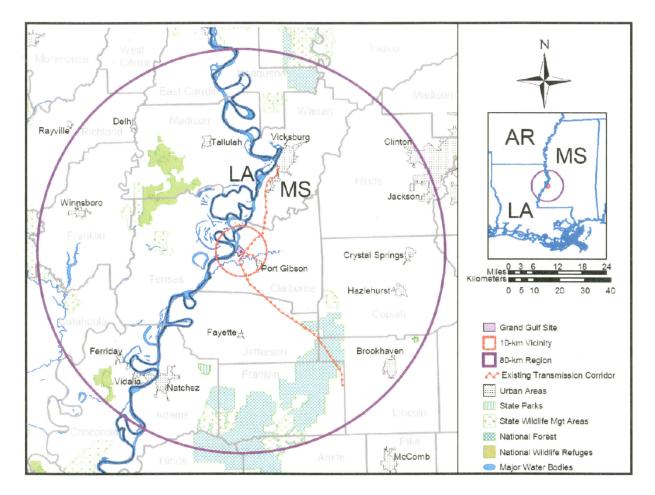


Figure 1 - General Location of the Existing Grand Gulf Nuclear Station, Claiborne County, Mississippi and Notable Features in the Surrounding area (USNRC, 2006).