



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services
Nebraska Field Office
203 West Second Street
Grand Island, Nebraska 68801

June 8, 2009

Mr. Joe Citta
Corporate Environmental Manager
Nebraska Public Power District
1414 15th Street; PO Box 499
Columbus, NE 68602-0499

Dear Mr. Citta:

Please make reference to your letter dated May 8, 2009, in regards to marking a transmission line that crosses the central Platte River downstream of the Highway 34 Bridge, east of Grand Island, Nebraska. The transmission line is associated with the Cooper Nuclear Station (CNS) and the currently ongoing relicensing process. A site visit of the transmission line was conducted by representatives of the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on April 20, 2009.

We have completed a review of the NPPD proposal to mark the power line to address potential collisions by migratory birds and have determined that it is satisfactory. Additionally, we commend NPPD for its willingness to mark an additional transmission line in the immediate vicinity of the aforementioned line that could also pose a risk to migratory birds, but has no relationship to the CNS relicensing process. The proposed actions by NPPD address any concerns we have with the CNS 345kV transmission line.

We remain supportive of the relicensing application. If you have any questions or need additional information please contact Mr. Robert Harms at (308) 382-6468, extension 17.

Sincerely,

June M. DeWeese
Nebraska Field Supervisor

cc: NGPC; Lincoln, NE (Attn: Frank Albrecht)
NGPC; Lincoln, NE (Attn: Gene Zuerlein)
NGPC; Lincoln, NE (Attn: Scott Luedtke)
NGPC; Lincoln, NE (Attn: Michelle Koch)