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United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services
WinSystems Center Building
711 Stadium Drive, Suite 252
Arlington, Texas 76011

21420-2007-I-0069

December 4, 2006

Dr. William P. Wenstrom
Enercon Services, Inc.
Santa Fe Trail Ranch
11020 Conifer Drive
Trinidad, Colorado 81082

Dear Dr. Wenstrom:

This responds to your November 13, 2006, letter requesting information regarding TXU Power Inc.'s proposed construction and operation of a new nuclear power generation facility at the existing Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station (CPSES) site on Squaw Creek Reservoir in Somervell County, Texas. We are providing this information to assist you in assessing and avoiding impacts to federally listed threatened and endangered species.

During your subsequent November 28, 2006, phone conversation with Sean Edwards of my staff, you indicated that the proposed actions would take place within the existing CPSES footprint and potentially on an undeveloped site northwest of this facility. You also indicated this undeveloped site is almost entirely composed of a dense ashe juniper monoculture.

Our records indicate that the following endangered (E) and candidate (C) species have been documented, or are known to occur in Somervell County:

black-capped vireo (*Vireo atricapilla*) - E
golden-cheeked warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*) - E
sharpnose shiner (*Notropis oxyrhynchus*) - C

There is no designated critical habitat for listed species in Somervell County. Candidate species are not afforded federal protection under the Endangered Species Act; however, we recommend that potential impacts to these species be considered during project planning. For information on the general biology of these species or questions regarding the section 7 consultation process, visit our website at <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arlingtontexas>.

Sharpnose shiners do not typically inhabit deep-water habitats such as those within Squaw Creek Reservoir; therefore, impacts to this species would not be expected. Although the species list within your letter includes the endangered whooping crane and interior least tern, the Service does not currently list those species in Somervell County.

We have specific concerns regarding potential impacts to the black-capped vireo and golden-cheeked warbler as a result of the proposed project, especially if the undeveloped area to the northwest of the facility is utilized. Because these species are known to inhabit Dinosaur Valley State Park within 2.5 miles of this location, we recommend that your project design and site selection process consider potential impacts to each of these species. Should your evaluation determine the potential for impact to a listed species, please contact this office for further coordination.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information on the proposed project. If you have any questions, please contact Sean Edwards of my staff at (817) 277-1100.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Cloud, Jr.
Field Supervisor