

PMFermiCOLPEm Resource

From: Lemont, Stephen
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2009 11:53 AM
To: Craig D Tylenda
Cc: shacklefordm@dteenergy.com; Randall Westmoreland; Masnik, Michael; Hayse, John; LaGory, Kirk E.; FermiCOL Resource
Subject: Notes from 8-12-09 Conference Call Pertaining to Rayed Bean Mussel

Craig,

This email summarizes the discussions during our conference call on August 12, 2009, to discuss the availability of information related to the potential for the rayed bean (*Villosa fabilis*), a mussel that is a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), to occur at or near the Fermi site. This information would be used to assist with the NRC's preparation of a Biological Assessment (BA) for the site, as required under Section 7 of the ESA. Also provided below are the action items for Detroit Edison and NRC from the call. If you have any comments on, or suggested changes to these notes, please let me know.

CONFERENCE CALL PARTICIPANTS

NRC - Stephen Lemont, Michael Masnik
Detroit Edison - Matt Shackelford, Randy Westmoreland, Craig Tylenda
Argonne National Laboratory (Argonne) - John Hayse

ISSUES DISCUSSED

1. Mike Masnik and John Hayse stated that, as part of the NEPA process for Fermi 3, a BA will be prepared by NRC. While we are not required to conduct field investigations or sampling to prepare the BA, we do need to evaluate the potential for federally listed species and candidate species to occur on or near the site. In the case of the rayed bean, we need to know if Detroit Edison has any information that would allow us to address the potential occurrence of this species. Ideally, this would be information we could reference in the BA.
2. Matt Shackelford, Detroit Edison's expert on mollusks, provided the following information pertaining to the rayed bean's presence in the vicinity of the Fermi site:
 - a) Ongoing native mussel surveys conducted near Detroit Edison's Monroe Plant have shown that, even though there are healthy populations of native mussels associated with the thermal plume there (Western basin, south of the Fermi site), no rayed bean mussels have been collected.
 - b) In partnership with the USGS, about 30 years of information on mussels in the western basin of Lake Erie (including some samples collected near the Fermi site) have been evaluated. No rayed bean specimens have been identified in those data. Literature searches and sampling have been documented in a 1991 paper.
 - c) Results of sampling at the Monroe Plant from 1983 to 1993 are documented in a 1993 paper. No rayed bean mussels were observed.
 - d) Surveys for mussels by Clark (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, USACE) approximately 2 miles south of the Fermi site found no live or dead rayed bean specimens.
 - e) Observations during sediment sampling and buoy maintenance by Detroit Edison within the Fermi exclusion area have shown that the sediment is predominantly hardpan, which is not suitable habitat for the rayed bean.

- f) Peter Badra with the Michigan Natural Features Inventory has conducted surveys at the mouth of Swan Creek in Lake Erie (near the northern boundary of the Fermi site) and in Swan Creek, and has not observed any evidence of the rayed bean.
3. Matt Shackelford stated that he would send NRC copies of references and other documentation associated with the issues discussed in item 2 above.

Matt also stated that he could send NRC a letter or email summarizing information not provided in other documentation (including, but not necessarily limited to diver observations pertaining to sediments in the exclusion area), subject to the approval of Detroit Edison's management. Mike Masnik and Steve Lemont pointed out that a letter from Matt would be best, and that obtaining this letter need not require an additional RAI.

ACTION ITEMS

Detroit Edison

1. Provide copies of references and other documentation containing information pertaining to the potential occurrence of the rayed bean in the vicinity of the Fermi site.
2. Provide a letter from Matt Shackelford summarizing information not provided in other documentation (including, but not limited to diver observations pertaining to sediments in the exclusion area). NRC requests that this letter from Matt Shackelford include information on his credentials as a mollusk expert.
3. Please provide contact information for Clark of the USACE.

NRC/Argonne

1. Contact the USACE to obtain available information on surveys for mussels by Clark, approximately 2 miles south of the Fermi site.
2. Contact Peter Badra of the Michigan Natural Features Inventory to obtain available information on surveys he has conducted, as discussed in item 2f above.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thanks,
Steve

Stephen Lemont, Ph.D.

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