



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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

August 26, 2009

Mr. Joe Citta
Corporate Environmental Manager
Nebraska Public Power District
1414 15th Street
Columbus, NE 68801

RE: Cooper Nuclear Station License Renewal, Nebraska Public Power District

Dear Mr. Citta:

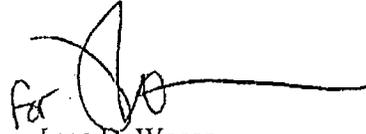
This is in response to your August 25, 2009, letter with an enclosed Memorandum of Understanding and Restrictive Covenant for Conservation. Both enclosures have been signed and executed and demonstrate the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) and Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) intention to offset adverse affects to federally listed species resulting from the proposed Cooper Nuclear Station License Renewal.

After reviewing your August 25 letter, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has concluded that it concurs with the NPPD and NRC determination that the proposed relicensing action is not likely to adversely affect federally listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of federally designated critical habitat.

Please note that the Service may reinitiate consultation if new species become listed or are proposed to be listed, critical habitat is proposed or designated, or new information about federally listed species becomes available that previously was not considered during this consultation. The NPPD and NRC should reinitiate consultation with the Service if the current relicensing project is modified through a change in scope and/or if new information becomes available about the project that previously was not considered.

The Service appreciates the opportunity to work cooperatively with the NPPD and NRC in assuming a shared responsibility for protecting federal trust fish and wildlife resources in Nebraska. If you have any questions or require technical assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Robert Harms within our office at (308)382-6468, extension 17.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'June DeWeese', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

June DeWeese
Nebraska Field Supervisor

cc: NGPC; Lincoln, NE (Attn: Frank Albrecht)
Nebraska Land Trust; Lincoln, NE (Attn: Dave Sands)