



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 1, 2011

Mr. Mark Sramek
Fishery Biologist
National Marine Fisheries Service
Habitat Conservation Division
263 13th Avenue, South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

SUBJECT: ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT ASSESSMENT FOR LICENSE RENEWAL OF
CRYSTAL RIVER UNIT 3 NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT (TAC NO. ME0278)

Dear Mr. Sramek:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has completed the enclosed draft Supplement 44 to NUREG-1437, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants," to evaluate the proposed renewal of the Crystal River Unit 3 Nuclear Generating Plant (CR-3) operating license for a period of an additional 20 years. In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the NRC's essential fish habitat (EFH) assessment for CR-3 license renewal is included in Appendix D.1. The NRC is requesting initiation of an EFH consultation regarding the proposed action of license renewal.

CR-3 is located in Citrus County, Florida, 80 miles north of Tampa. CR-3 is equipped with a once-through heat dissipation system that withdraws cooling water from, and discharges it to, Crystal Bay in the Gulf of Mexico. Water for cooling and service water is withdrawn via an intake canal. After circulating through the condensers, cooling water is returned to the Gulf of Mexico via a discharge channel to the north of the intake.

As described in the EFH assessment, the NRC staff identified 19 species that have EFH designated in the vicinity of CR-3. The evaluation in the EFH assessment concludes no adverse effect on EFH for two species and minimal adverse effect on EFH for 17 species during, at least, one life stage. The NRC staff concludes that license renewal of CR-3 for an additional 20 years of operation would result in no to minimal adverse effects on Federally-managed species and their EFH in Ecoregion 2 of the Gulf of Mexico.

M. Sramek

- 2 -

In reaching these conclusions, the NRC staff relied on information provided by the applicant, on research performed by NRC staff, and on information from National Marine Fisheries Service. If you have any questions regarding the enclosed draft supplemental environmental impact statement, the EFH assessment, or the staff's request, please contact Mr. Daniel Doyle, Environmental Project Manager, at 301-415-3748 or by e-mail at Daniel.Doyle@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bo M. Rham', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Bo M. Rham, Chief
Projects Branch 1
Division of License Renewal

Docket No. 50-302

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/encl: Listserv

M. Sramek

- 2 -

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Bo M. Pham, Chief
Projects Branch 1
Division of License Renewal

Docket No. 50-302

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/encl: Listserv

DISTRIBUTION:

See next page

ADAMS Accession Nos.:

1. Package: ML11140A102
2. Letter: ML11140A100
3. "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants, Supplement 44": ML11139A153

*concurrence via email

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NAME	lKing	DLogan	DDoyle	BPham
DATE	05/23/2011	05/24/2011	05/24/2011	06/01/2011

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Letter to Mark Sramek from Bo M. Pham, dated June 1, 2011

SUBJECT: ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT ASSESSMENT FOR LICENSE RENEWAL OF
CRYSTAL RIVER UNIT 3 NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT (TAC NO. ME0278)

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