



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
646 Cajundome Blvd.
Suite 400
Lafayette, Louisiana 70506



March 4, 2011

Mr. James A. Thomas
Enercon
5100 East Skelly Drive, Suite 450
Tulsa, OK 74135

Dear Mr. Thomas:

Please reference your February 4, 2011, letter, regarding the renewal of an operating license for the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station (GGNS), which is located in Claiborne County, Mississippi. That letter requested our concurrence with your determination that the proposed project is not likely to adversely affect any federally threatened or endangered species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the information you provided, and offers the following comments on the Louisiana portion in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). These comments only pertain to those species that fall under the purview of the Louisiana Ecological Services Office (ESO).

The proposed project is located on the east bank of the Mississippi River at River Mile 406. The federally listed species that fall within a 50-mile radius of the GGNS (in Louisiana) include the Louisiana black bear (*Ursus americanus luteolus*), interior least tern (*Sterna antillarum*), pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*), and fat pocketbook pearly mussel (*Potamilus capax*). According to your letter, there are no expected changes to the operation of the GGNS that would occur during the license renewal term (an additional 20 years). There are also no proposed construction activities. Based on this information, the Service concurs with your determination that the proposed project is not likely to adversely affect the above listed species. Therefore, no further ESA consultation will be necessary with our office for this project.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments. If you need further assistance, please contact Seth Bordelon (337/291-3138) of this office.

Sincerely,

Brad S. Rieck
Deputy Field Supervisor
Louisiana Ecological Services Office

cc: LDWF, Natural Heritage Program, Baton Rouge, LA

