



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

FEB - 4 2013

William F. Burton, Acting Chief
Environmental Projects Branch 2
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Re: Bell Bend

Dear Mr. Burton,

We have reviewed the location of PPL's proposed new nuclear reactor at the Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant. It is our understanding that you are preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to consider the effects of construction and operation of one nuclear plant.

No species listed by NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) as threatened or endangered, or species proposed for listing occur near the proposed site in Berwick, Pennsylvania or at any of the three alternative sites. There is also no designated or proposed critical habitat at the proposed site or any of the alternative sites. As such, no further coordination with us on the effects of the action on listed species or their critical habitat is necessary and we do not anticipate the need for consultation pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended, for the subject Federal action. Please direct any questions regarding the ESA and Section 7 consultation to Julie Crocker of our Protected Resources Division at (978)282-8480.

This project is not located within designated Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and therefore an EFH consultation is not required. Due to the current status of anadromous fishery resources in the vicinity of the site, we will not be providing recommendations under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act at this time. Please direct any questions regarding Essential Fish Habitat to Chris Boelke of our Habitat Conservation Division at (978)281-9131.

Sincerely,

Mary A. Colligan
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Protected Resources

