



# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Pennsylvania Field Office  
110 Radnor Road, Suite 101  
State College, Pennsylvania 16801-4850

June 23, 2016

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Document Control Desk, ATTN: Steve Ruffin  
Mail Stop TWFN 4E-04  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

72-0065

RE: USFWS Project #2016-0905

Dear Mr. Ruffin:

Thank you for your letter dated April 25, 2016, which provided the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) with information regarding the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) proposed approval of the Limerick Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) Decommissioning Funding Plan project located in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. This letter is issued in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), to ensure the protection of endangered and threatened species.

The project is within the known range of the bog turtle (*Clemmys muhlenbergii*), a species that is federally listed as threatened. Bog turtles inhabit shallow, spring-fed fens, sphagnum bogs, swamps, marshy meadows, and pastures characterized by soft, muddy bottoms; clear, cool, slow-flowing water, often forming a network of rivulets; high humidity; and an open canopy. Bog turtles usually occur in small, discrete populations occupying suitable wetland habitat dispersed along a watershed. The occupied "intermediate successional stage" wetland habitat is usually a mosaic of micro-habitats ranging from dry pockets, to areas that are saturated with water, to areas that are periodically flooded. Some wetlands occupied by bog turtles are located in agricultural areas and are subject to grazing by livestock. More information on this species can be found at: [http://ecos.fws.gov/tess\\_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=C048](http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=C048)

The proposed project will not authorize or result in changes to licensed operations or maintenance activities, or changes in the types, characteristics, or quantities of radiological or non-radiological effluents released into the environment. Moreover, the approval of the plan will not authorize any construction activity, facility modification, or decommissioning activity or license termination for the ISFSI. Therefore, the NRC has determined the project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect listed species. The Service concurs with this determination.

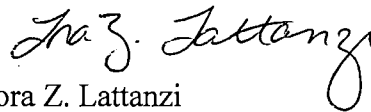
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*To avoid potential delays in reviewing your project, please use the above-referenced USFWS project tracking number in any future correspondence regarding this project.*

Please contact Brian Scofield of this office at (814) 234-4090 if you have any questions or require further assistance regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lora Z. Lattanzi". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Lora Z. Lattanzi  
Field Office Supervisor