



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
West Coast Region
1201 NE Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 1100
PORTLAND, OREGON 97232-1274

August 3, 2016

James G. Danna, Chief
Environmental Review and Project Management Branch
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11545 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Endangered Species Act Section 7(a)(2) consultation on the Columbia Generating Station
License Renewal by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Dear Mr. Danna:

Thank you for your letter of March 2, 2016 indicating the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) intent to complete consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, for the NRC's May 22, 2012 action to renew the Columbia Generating Station (CGS) license for a 20-year term. Your recent correspondence requested that National Marine Fisheries provide its biological opinion within 135 days from the receipt of your March 2, 2016 letter and that we provide a draft of the biological opinion to the NRC for review and comment prior to being finalized.

We have all the information necessary to complete this consultation and are currently working to complete a draft biological opinion. We expect to complete our internal review draft by mid-August, and to provide a draft biological opinion to the NRC for review and comment by September 9, 2016. The timeframe for finalizing the biological opinion will depend on the date and extent of comments we receive from the NRC and the scope of issues, if any, which may need to be resolved. Accordingly, upon receipt of your comments on the draft biological opinion, we will request an appropriate extension of the formal consultation timeframe for completion and delivery of our final biological opinion.

Per your request, we will provide copies of our future correspondence to both you and the NRC project biologist, Briana Grange. Please provide copies of your future correspondence regarding this

consultation to both to Ritchie Graves (Ritchie.Graves@NOAA.gov, 503-231-6891) as well as Rich Domingue (Richard.Domingue@NOAA.gov, 503-231-6858).

Sincerely,



Michael P. Tehan
Assistant Regional Administrator
Interior Columbia Basin Office
NOAA Fisheries, West Coast Region

Cc: Briana Grange
Ryan Couch, GCNW
Shannon Khounala, Energy Northwest