



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
East Lansing Field Office (ES)
2651 Coolidge Road, Suite 101
East Lansing, Michigan 48823-6316

IN REPLY REFER TO:

August 12, 2016

John McKirgan, Chief
Spent Fuel Licensing Branch
Division of Spent Fuel Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Mr. McKirgan:

We received your July 7, 2016, letter addressed to Ms. Alisa Shull, Chief Endangered Species for Region 3, requesting concurrence for a proposed Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) action. The proposed action is the Big Rock Point independent spent fuel storage installation decommissioning funding plan (DFP). This facility was operational from 1962 to 1997 and is located in Charlevoix County, near Charlevoix, Michigan.

Entergy Nuclear Operations submitted the DFP for the Big Rock Point for the NRC review and approval. The NRC seeks to initiate informal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) pursuant section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA). The NRC determined that the proposed action will not affect listed species or designated critical habitat.

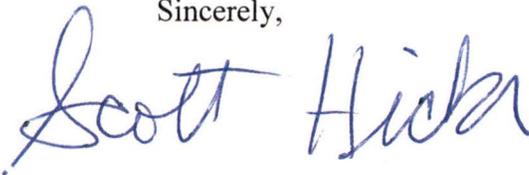
When an action agency determines that an action will have “no effect” on listed species or designated critical habitat that concludes the section 7 process and concurrence from the Service is not required. In this case, a “no effect” determination is appropriate because the “DFP will not authorize or 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 from the ISFSI, or result in the creation of any solid waste. Moreover, the approval of the DFP will not authorize any construction activity, facility modification, or any land disturbing activity.”

This precludes the need for further action on the proposed project as required by the ESA. However, if the project is modified or new information becomes available that indicates that listed species may be present and/or affected, consultation with our office should be reinitiated.

The NRC has determined that the proposed action will not result in any significant impact to the environment and will prepare an environmental assessment (EA). We request that a copy of the EA be sent to our office when it is completed.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments. Please direct any questions to Mr. Burr Fisher at 517/351-8286 or burr_fisher@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott Hicks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S".

Scott Hicks
Field Supervisor