

NRR-PMDAPEm Resource

From: Sarah Furtak - NOAA Federal <sarah.furtak@noaa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2017 4:12 PM
To: Grange, Briana
Subject: [External_Sender] Request re: SER-2017-18839 (Columbia Fuel Fabrication)

Hi Briana,

Thank you for the responses you provided on October 2. I've reviewed the information you provided, and am looking for clarification. I am requesting the following:

1. Please point to a map that provides the action area, including the permitted outfall and downstream area of 2.1 miles.

I understand the map should be consistent with the following:

- "the 469-hectare (ha) (1,158-acre (ac)) CFFF site and the bankfull width of the Congaree River from the point at which CFFF discharges effluents at NPDES-permitted Outfall 001 and continuing downstream 3.2 km (2 mi)." (from p. 3 of the Biological Evaluation)
- "liquid effluent...is routed offsite to the Congaree River through a 15-centimeter (cm) (6-in (in.)) pipeline, which meets with and submerges below the river's surface at a point about 5.6 km (3.5 mi) south of the main plant facility." (p. 2 of Biological Evaluation)
- "The CFFF site lies within the flood basin of the Congaree River, which flows approximately 6.4 km (4 mi) southwest of the main plant." (p. 3-1 of Environmental Report).

The map that seemed most inclusive of the descriptors listed above is the figure on page 6-6 of the Environmental Report (it shows the CFFF, the outfall, and the river). I'm not sure if it shows the 469-hectare site, however. The map has no boundaries.

2. Did NRC evaluate the impact (and make an effect determination) of the effluent discharges to the Congaree River on the Atlantic Sturgeon? The Atlantic Sturgeon is listed -- along with the shortnose sturgeon-- on the endangered/threatened species list for South Carolina at http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/protected_resources/section_7/threatened_endangered/Documents/south_carolina.pdf.

3. What effects determination does NRC make for Atlantic Sturgeon critical habitat? The critical habitat rule was finalized just after we received your consultation request, and it became effective mid-September 2017 (<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/08/17/2017-17207/endangered-and-threatened-species-designation-of-critical-habitat-for-the-endangered-new-york-bight>).

4. According to Tetra Tech's Environmental Report, the proposed action would allow concentrations of 60 pico-curies per gram for calcium chloride to replace the current value of 30-pico-curies per gram limit. I did not see this modification addressed in the Biological Evaluation.

- Did NRC take this modification into account when making the species effects determination for shortnose sturgeon? If so, please explain how.
- How does this modification impact Atlantic sturgeon (see #2, above)?
- How does this modification impact Atlantic sturgeon critical habitat (see #3, above)?

Thanks in advance for your help in moving this consultation forward, and let me know if you have any questions.

Sarah

Sarah Furtak

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries
Southeast Regional Office - Protected Resources Division - Coral Conservation Branch
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On Mon, Oct 2, 2017 at 4:10 PM, Sarah Furtak - NOAA Federal <sarah.furtak@noaa.gov> wrote:
Thank you, Briana.

Sarah

Sarah Furtak

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On Mon, Oct 2, 2017 at 3:45 PM, Grange, Briana <Briana.Grange@nrc.gov> wrote:

Sarah,

I've attached responses to your September 22 questions related to the Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility license renewal (NMFS Tracking no. SER-2017-18839). Please let me know if you have any additional questions or if I can assist you further in any way. Thanks,

Briana

Briana A. Grange

Aquatic Biologist

Division of License Renewal

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

[301-415-1042](tel:301-415-1042)

briana.grange@nrc.gov

From: Sarah Furtak - NOAA Federal [mailto:sarah.furtak@noaa.gov]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 3:50 PM
To: Grange, Briana <Briana.Grange@nrc.gov>
Subject: [External_Sender] Update and request: Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility

Dear Briana:

I am writing to let you know that the Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility Project (with National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS] tracking number SER-2017-18839) has been assigned to me, to make a request for additional information, and to give you my contact information in case you have any questions.

I have the following questions and request:

- Please provide a map of the action area.
- According to the biological evaluation, "given the small volume of discharged effluent in relation to the overall river flow, the small area of the effluent plume, and the effluent concentration limits imposed by the CFFF NPDES permit, any effects on prey species would be insignificant and unlikely to affect prey availability, quality, or otherwise result in measurable effects on shortnose sturgeon fitness or behavior."
- What is the threshold concentration of uranium, ammonia, and fluorides that NRC considers to adversely affect the shortnose sturgeon within the action area?
- What is the volume of the discharged effluent relative to overall river flow?
- May I have a copy of the Tetra Tech Environmental Report referenced within the biological evaluation (note: I found something at <https://www.nrc.gov/docs/ML1435/ML14353A227.pdf>, but it appears incomplete)? The biological evaluation states that the report provides the nonradiological water quality of the discharge.
- Is the effluent heated (i.e., similar to cooling water)?
- What are the numeric limits (e.g., mg/L) imposed by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit (SC0001848) for uranium, ammonia, and fluorides?

You can check the status of your consultations through the Public Consultation Tracking System (PCTS) at <https://pcts.nmfs.noaa.gov/>. Please follow the attached directions to access your project and get information on the status of the project. Please scroll all the way to the bottom of the record to read status updates. If there is no new information in that section, then there is no new information on the status of the project.

We would greatly appreciate it if you let your applicant know this and that it is preferable for them to use PCTS link rather than contact the biologists directly for project information as that only slows the process.

Please note the NMFS tracking number above on future emails.

If no response to this request for additional information is received within 60 days, we will assume the consultation is no longer active. We will then close out the consultation request and change the status of the request to “withdrawn”.

Thank you,

Sarah

Sarah Furtak

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Subject: [External_Sender] Request re: SER-2017-18839 (Columbia Fuel Fabrication)
Sent Date: 10/12/2017 4:11:44 PM
Received Date: 10/12/2017 4:11:53 PM
From: Sarah Furtak - NOAA Federal

Created By: sarah.furtak@noaa.gov

Recipients:
"Grange, Briana" <Briana.Grange@nrc.gov>
Tracking Status: None

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MESSAGE	7816	10/12/2017 4:11:53 PM

Options
Priority: Standard
Return Notification: No
Reply Requested: No
Sensitivity: Normal
Expiration Date:
Recipients Received: