

Dockets



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

OCT 31 1979

Docket Nos. 50-272, 50-311,  
50-354, 50-355

Mr. William Gordon  
Regional Director  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Administration  
14 Elm Street  
Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930

Dear Mr. Gordon:

This constitutes a formal request for consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service in compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, Public Law 93-205, as amended by Public Law 95-632, in the matter of the effects of operation of Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Unit 1, and the construction and operation of Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Unit 2, and Hope Creek Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, on the endangered species Acipenser brevirostrum, shortnose sturgeon, resident in the Delaware River and estuary.

During January and June of 1978, Public Service Electric and Gas Company (the licensee) collected two specimens of Acipenser brevirostrum in the cooling water intake at Salem 1. The identification of these specimens was confirmed by W. Dovel, a recognized expert on shortnose sturgeon, and the specimens are being retained by the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife. In July of 1979, the licensee's consultants, Ichthyological Associates, collected a third specimen in their far-field monitoring program which they subsequently released unharmed to the river. According to available written records, as many as thirty-seven other specimens of shortnose sturgeon have been collected from the Delaware since 1954, thirty-five of these since 1969. In view of the number of recent reports, we believe that a reproducing population of shortnose sturgeon does exist in the Delaware River. In addition, we have performed a preliminary assessment of the operation of this plant to serve as the technical basis for allowing continued operation during this consultation.

In accordance with the Endangered Species Act, your consultation is required in determining whether construction and operation of Salem 2 and Hope Creek 1 and 2 and long-term continued operation of Salem 1 and their associated

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intake structures would jeopardize the continued existence of this endangered species or result in the destruction or modification of any critical habitat of this species. Thus, we would appreciate your assistance in this matter and, in particular, an opinion on whether the actions of this agency jeopardize the continued existence of the shortnose sturgeon in the Delaware River. The NRC contact for this matter is James Wilson, Environmental Specialists Branch, who may be reached by telephone on 301-492-7930.

Sincerely,

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Wm. H. Regan, Jr., Acting Assistant Director  
for Environmental Projects and Technology  
Division of Site Safety and  
Environmental Analysis

cc: J. Morales-Sanchez, EPA

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