

REGULATORY DOCKET FILE COPY

MAR 14 1980

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

Mr. Allen E. Peterson, Jr.
Director, NE Region
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration
Federal Building, 14 Elm Street
Gloucester, MA 01930

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Dear Mr. Peterson:

In response to the letter of December 7, 1979, from Mr. Terry L. Leitzell, the staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has obtained additional information on the shortnose sturgeon in the Delaware River. We have examined the available information on the site and vicinity of the Salem and Hope Creek Nuclear Generating Stations and evaluated the impacts of construction and operation of these stations on the shortnose sturgeon.

The details of the information we have considered and the findings and conclusions of our review are set forth in the report forwarded with this letter, "Assessment of the Impacts of the Salem and Hope Creek Stations on Shortnose Sturgeon, Acipenser brevirostrum Lesueur," March 5, 1980, (Enclosure 1). The overall conclusion we have reached is that the continued operation of Salem Unit 1, the future operation of Salem Unit 2, and the completion of construction and subsequent operation of Hope Creek Units 1 and 2 will not jeopardize the continued existence of the shortnose sturgeon in the Delaware River.

The Environmental Protection Agency has joined with NRC in its consultation with NMFS and has agreed that NRC will act as lead agency (EPA letter dated January 9, 1980, Enclosure 2). EPA has concurred in the NRC conclusion noted above (EPA letter dated March 5, 1980, Enclosure 3).

We believe that our assessment provides an adequate basis for resolving any concern for adverse impact on shortnose sturgeon from the Salem and Hope Creek Stations and for proceeding without addressing this matter further in reaching decisions on the licensing at Salem Unit 2 and Hope Creek, Units 1 and 2. We will, reinstitute appropriate consultation if new information becomes available on impacts of the Salem and Hope Creek Stations on shortnose sturgeon or their habitat or if modifications are made in the design or activities at either station which are likely to affect this species. Our licensing decisions (one of which is imminent

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Mr. Allen E. Peterson, Jr.

- 3 -

for Salem Unit 2) will not foreclose considerations of appropriate modifications or alternatives if need for such should arise in the future.

We feel our assessments will allow you to complete your consultation with us on these facilities. We welcome any comments you may have on the enclosed assessment and its conclusions. We appreciate the assistance you have provided in these consultations and look forward to continued cooperation.

Sincerely,

Original signed by W. H. Regan, Jr.

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

Enclosures:

1. "Assessment of the Impacts of the
Salem and Hope Creek Stations
on Shortnose Sturgeon,
Acipenser brevirostrum Lesueur,"
March 5, 1980.

2. EPA ltr to NRC dtd 1/9/80

3. EPA ltr to NRC dtd 3/5/80

cc (w encl): Terry L. Leitzell, NMFS
(w encl 1): J. Morales-Sanchez, EPA

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SURNAME	RCleveland	GLear	KCyr	RBallard	WRegan
DATE	3/14/80	3/14/80	3/14/80	3/14/80	3/14/80