



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 13, 2018

Mr. Joseph A. Ranson
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Louisiana Ecological Services Field Office
646 Cajundome Blvd., Suite 400
Lafayette, LA 70506-4290

SUBJECT: AVAILABILITY OF THE FINAL SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS FOR THE PROPOSED LICENSE RENEWALS OF RIVER BEND STATION, UNIT 1, AND WATERFORD STEAM ELECTRIC STATION, UNIT 3

Dear Mr. Ranson:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has completed the final supplements to NUREG-1437, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants" (SEIS), regarding the proposed license renewals of Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit 3 (Waterford 3) and River Bend Station, Unit 1 (River Bend), in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. You can access portable document format (PDF) copies of the two documents on the following NRC public webpages.

Waterford 3 final SEIS: <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1437/supplement59/>

River Bend final SEIS: <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1437/supplement58/>

In connection with each proposed license renewal, the NRC staff consulted with your office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) pursuant to Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, as briefly summarized below.

For Waterford 3, the NRC staff determined that the proposed license renewal would have no effect on the gulf subspecies of Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi*) and West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) and that license renewal may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*). The NRC staff documented its analysis in a biological evaluation, which the staff submitted to your office for review on July 5, 2017, accompanied by a request for the Service to concur with the staff's determination of "not likely to adversely affect" for pallid sturgeon in accordance with Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations (50 CFR) 402.12(j). By letter dated November 20, 2017, the Service concurred. The Service's letter concluded consultation.

For River Bend, the NRC staff determined that the proposed license renewal may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the pallid sturgeon. The staff identified no other species or habitats protected under the Endangered Species Act with the potential to be affected by the proposed license renewal. The staff documented its analysis in Section 3.8 and 4.8 of the River Bend

SEIS, and in a letter dated June 5, 2018, the NRC staff requested the Service's concurrence with the staff's determination. By letter dated August 29, 2018, the Service concurred. The Service's letter concluded consultation.

Since concluding the two consultations with the Service and during the preparation of the final SEISs, the NRC staff has not identified any information that would necessitate further consultation for either Waterford 3 or River Bend. Thus, the NRC considers its obligations under Endangered Species Act Section 7(a)(2) to be fulfilled with respect to the proposed license renewals. Appendix C of each of the final SEISs describes the Endangered Species Act consultations and provides full citations to all related correspondence between the NRC and the Service.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Briana Grange, Biologist, at 301-415-1042 or briana.grange@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Benjamin Beasley, Chief
Environmental Review and NEPA Branch
Division of Materials and License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-458 and 50-382

cc: Listserv

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