



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/region/southeast>

January 24, 2022

Jack D. Parrott
Senior Project Manager
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mailstop T-5A10
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Status of Section 7 Consultation Under The Endangered Species Act for the cooling water intake system at the Crystal River Energy Complex (F/SER/2001/01080).

Dear Mr. Parrott:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issued a Biological Opinion to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for the cooling water intake system at the Crystal River Energy Complex on August 8, 2002 (hereafter referred to as the CREC biological opinion). The cooling water intake has been repurposed and modified for the Duke Energy Citrus Combined Cycle Station and is currently compliant with the Programmatic Biological Opinion on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Issuance and Implementation of the Final Regulations Section 316(b) of the Clean Water Act on May 19, 2014 (hereafter referred to as the 316(b) biological opinion). As part of the 316(b) biological opinion process, NMFS received the most recent request for technical assistance from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection on the Duke Energy Citrus Combined Cycle Station National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Application Renewal (FL0000159) on June 7, 2021. NMFS responded to this request in a letter dated June 9, 2021 with no suggested control measures or conservation recommendations beyond those presented in the 316(b) biological opinion.

The Permit Application Renewal (FL0000159) indicates the Crystal River Energy Complex cooling water intake is now part of the Duke Energy Citrus Combined Cycle Station and no longer in use for nuclear power generation. Based on this information, the 2002 CREC biological opinion is no longer applicable. No further action is required of the NRC concerning the CREC biological opinion.

If you have any questions, please contact Joe Heublein on my staff at (727) 209-5962 or joe.heublein@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

Nicholas A. Farmer, Ph.D.
Chief, Species Conservation Branch

CC: Briana Arlene, NRC

