



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Texas Coastal and Central Plains Ecological Services Office
Corpus Christi Sub-Office
4444 Corona Drive, Suite 215
Corpus Christi, Texas 78411
PHONE: 361/994-9004



In Reply Refer To:
2025-I-0115594

March 11, 2026

Ms. Shannon Healy
Environmental Scientist
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington D.C. 20555

Dear Ms. Healy:

Thank you for your January 29, 2026 letter requesting consultation pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544) (Act), regarding Long Mott Energy, LLC (Applicant) proposed Long Mott Generating Station (LMGS) in Calhoun County, Texas. The Environmental Assessment dated January 2026, included with your request for consultation determined that the proposed action may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), whooping crane (*Grus americana*), eastern black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis jamaicensis*), northern aplomado falcon (*Falco femoralis*), red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*), false spike (*Fusconaia mitchelli*), and Guadalupe orb (*Cyclonaias necki*).

The Applicant proposes to construct and develop four 200 megawatt thermal (80 megawatt electrical) Xe-100 reactor modules, two turbine-generator sets, air-cooled condensers, and auxiliary facilities. The Xe-100 reactor is a high-temperature gas-cooled reactor using TRistructural ISOtropic (TRISO) fuel. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is reviewing the proposal permit for issuance of a construction permit to the Applicant under Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) Part 50. The permit would allow the construction of a nuclear power station as part of the LMGS. The Applicant is required to apply for a separate operating license under 10 CFR Part 50 for authorization to operate the proposed LMGS. The NRC would perform an additional environmental review for that operating license application.

Approximately 1,537 acres will be utilized for construction, installation, and production of the nuclear power station facility adjacent to the Seadrift Operations facility operated by Dow Chemical Company (of which the Applicant is a subsidiary). The building will be on fallow agricultural land, and will affect West Coloma Creek and the drainage swales associated with it.

Once complete, approximately 26.8 acres of wetlands will be modified. Palustrine emergent herbaceous wetlands exist onsite, approximately 0.9 ac (0.4 ha) would be permanently filled, and an additional 1 ac (0.4 ha) would be permanently converted to another vegetation type. Palustrine scrub-shrub wetlands onsite will have 1.8 ac (0.7 ha) permanently converted to another vegetation type, but none would be permanently filled. Overall, 3.7 ac (1.5 ha) of wetlands will be permanently impacted. The wetlands are largely composed of woody growth and invasive plants associated with human development.

During the site visit and the field surveys completed by the applicant, the grassland area that had developed in the agricultural field included up to 220 species in the winter and 72 species in the spring. Species such as eastern meadow larks, red winged black birds, and non-native species were present in large flocks.

The following measures are proposed to prevent or minimize potential adverse effects to threatened and endangered species to the extent practicable.

- Workers will be educated, with approved USFWS materials, to recognize listed species that can occur in the area, their habitat, and federal status.
- Dow Chemical, of which LME is a wholly owned subsidiary, has signed a Memorandum of Agreement to participate in a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) that is being developed by the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA). This HCP would address water management impacts on all potentially present species within the entire Guadalupe River basin, including the eastern black rail, whooping crane, Guadalupe darter, false spike, Guadalupe orb, and Guadalupe fatmucket.
- Transmission lines and structures will follow Avian Power Line Interaction Committee Guidelines as applicable including to shield and mark any required powerlines, as practicable.
- All permanent lighting will be down-shielded and pointed away from potential habitat to the extent practicable in accordance with facility security lighting standards.
- There would be no discharges into suitable mussel habitat. The only discharges associated with LMGS operations would be the discharge of stormwater and treated nonradiological wastewater into the Victoria Barge Canal and of stormwater into West Coloma Creek.
- Tall structures including buildings, construction equipment 15 ft high or higher, fences, and antennas in the area will be marked/flagged or laid down on the ground at night or when not in use.
- During the wintering season (Nov 1 – April 15), a designated observer will have stop-work authority and will stop work if whooping cranes land within 1,000 ft of the active construction area until cranes have moved beyond that distance or left the area and work can safely resume.
- All sightings of whooping cranes will be documented and reported to the Texas Coastal and Central Plains Ecological Services Field Office in Corpus Christi within 48 hrs of occurrence unless otherwise directed.

- If any disturbance of potential black rail habitat areas is required, it will occur outside of the sensitive breeding period (March 1 through 9 September 30).

The Service agrees that with the implementation of the conservation, avoidance and minimization measures noted above, the likelihood of an impact occurring to piping plover, whooping crane, eastern black rail, northern aplomado falcon, red knot, West Indian manatee, false spike, and Guadalupe orb is insignificant and discountable. The Service, therefore, concurs with the your determination that the project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect these eight species.

The proposed endangered tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) and monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) are known to occur in the general project area. Proposed species are not currently protected under the Act; however, conferencing may be required if a federal action is determined to be likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a proposed species.

Based on the evaluations in the BA, the Agency does not indicate that conferencing on proposed listed species is necessary, however, the action does contain habitat for the tricolored bat. The bat generally uses wooded areas during portions of its life history for roosting and wintering (in year-round active areas). To minimize impacts to the tricolored bat, we have the following voluntary recommendations for Zone 1 of the bat's range where the project is located:

- Schedule tree removal outside of the pup season May 1 – July 15.
- Schedule tree removal outside of winter torpor season Dec 15 – Feb 15.

For more information regarding the tricolored bat, please see the [Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat Voluntary Environmental Review Process for Development Projects](#).

Please note this guidance does not authorize bird mortality for species that are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, as amended (16 U.S.C. sec. 703-712). To avoid or minimize impacts to birds protected by the MBTA, the Service recommends:

- Conducting bird surveys no more than five days prior to ground disturbing activities or mechanical clearing of brush and trees.
- Conducting surveys if the clearing or ground disturbance occurs during peak nesting season, between March 15 and September 15.
- Survey for birds, nests, and eggs.
- If active nests are found, the Service recommends leaving a buffer of vegetation at least 100 feet around nests until young have fledged or the nest is abandoned.
- Nesting raptors need larger buffers of at least 0.5 miles.

Based on the information provided within your letter, we concur with the determination that the project, as proposed, may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the eight listed species and two proposed species within the action area subject to this consultation.

You have made a “no effect” determination for the following species due to lack of habitat: Attwater’s prairie chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido attwateri*), Kemp’s ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*), green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), hawk’s bill (*Eretmochelys imbricate*), leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*). The Service does not provide concurrences for “no effect” determinations on species, however the Service believes that the NRC has complied with (7)(a)(2) of the Act by making a determination. Therefore, no further section 7 consultation will be required unless: 1) the identified action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect on a listed species or designated critical habitat; 2) new information reveals the identified action may affect federally listed species or designated critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered; or 3) a new species is listed or a critical habitat is designated under the Act that may be affected by the identified action. If new effects are identified in the future, section 7 consultation may need to be reinitiated.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide information on the proposed project, as well as your efforts to conserve America’s fish and wildlife resources. If you have any questions, please contact Mary “Sandra” Lee at mary_lee@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

Catrina Martin
Assistant Field Supervisor