

AEA



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

ADDRESS ONLY THE DIRECTOR,
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

SEP 03 2003

In Reply Refer to: FWS/AEA

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas P. Brown
Deputy Chief, Environmental Division
HQ Air Combat Command
129 Andrews Blvd.
Langley AFB, VA 23665

Dear Lt. Col. Brown:

Based on your telephone conversation this afternoon with Clint Riley, Special Assistant to the Director, we understand that you have decided to withdraw your appeal of the Fish and Wildlife Service's July 25, 2003 response to your Information Quality Act request related to the information referred to in the proposed listing of *Lepidium papilliferum* (slickspot peppergrass).

We understand your decision is based on the Service's 6-month extension of the deadline for a final determination of whether to list slickspot peppergrass, which makes the new deadline January 15, 2004. More specifically, your decision to withdraw your appeal is based on the fact that the Service will respond to public comments received during the 6-month extension, and will specifically respond to the comments that are the subject of your original Information Quality Act request, and will provide those responses to you at that time.

Consequently, we will not provide a ruling on your appeal at this time. You retain the right to submit a renewal of your informational request in the future if you believe basis remains to challenge the information under the Information Quality Act.

Please contact Tom Melius, Assistant Director - External Affairs, at 202-208-6541 if this letter is in error.

Sincerely,

Acting Director