



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Washington, D.C. 20240



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In Reply Refer To:  
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2013-F-0004

Mr. Robert K Wood, Director  
Engineering and Analysis Division  
Office of Water  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Washington, District of Columbia 20460

Subject: Request for Initiation of Formal Consultation on Environmental Protection Agency's  
Final Regulation to Establish Requirements for Cooling Water Intake Structures at  
Existing Facilities and Amend Requirements at Phase I Facilities

Dear Mr. Wood:

This letter acknowledges our receipt of your June 18, 2013, letter requesting initiation of formal section 7 consultation pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of (ESA) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(2)). The consultation will address the possible effects of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) final regulation to implement Section 316(b) of the Clean Water Act on federally threatened and endangered species and their critical habitats.

Your initiation request states that while EPA believes the rulemaking will not cause adverse effects to listed species, EPA is still requesting formal consultation to ensure full and expeditious consideration of impacts to listed species under Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA. We expect to conclude consultation with your agency on October 31, 2013, unless we mutually agree upon an extension of the deadline.

We look forward to working with you and your staff. If you have any questions or concerns about this consultation or the consultation process in general, please feel free to contact Drew Crane (703-358-2409; [Drew\\_Crane@fws.gov](mailto:Drew_Crane@fws.gov)) or Patrice Ashfield (703-358-2478; [Patrice\\_Ashfield@fws.gov](mailto:Patrice_Ashfield@fws.gov)).

Sincerely,

Richard E. Sayers, Jr., Ph.D.  
Chief, Division of Environmental Review

