

Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Press inquiry on March 2 from Energywire for Fish and Wildlife Service

Simon, Spencer <spencer\_simon@fws.gov>

Fri 3/3/2023 11:04 AM

To: Shannon, Keith <Keith\_Shannon@fws.gov>; Schulz, Cindy <cindy\_schulz@fws.gov>; Armstrong, Karen <karen\_armstrong@fws.gov>; Public Affairs, FWHQ <publicaffairs@fws.gov>

Cc: Bossie, Susan (Amanda) <Susan.Bossie@sol.doi.gov>; Marino, Sharon <sharon\_marino@fws.gov>

My sense from the conversation was not to respond.

Spencer Simon  
Deputy Assistant Regional Director - Ecological Services  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
300 Westgate Center Drive  
Hadley, MA 01035

O: 413-253-8578

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**From:** Shannon, Keith <Keith\_Shannon@fws.gov>

**Sent:** Friday, March 3, 2023 9:56 AM

**To:** Simon, Spencer <spencer\_simon@fws.gov>; Schulz, Cindy <cindy\_schulz@fws.gov>; Armstrong, Karen <karen\_armstrong@fws.gov>; Public Affairs, FWHQ <publicaffairs@fws.gov>

**Cc:** Bossie, Susan (Amanda) <Susan.Bossie@sol.doi.gov>; Marino, Sharon <sharon\_marino@fws.gov>

**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Press inquiry on March 2 from Energywire for Fish and Wildlife Service

Thank you, Spencer. To clarify, is the recommendation not to reply to any of Carlos's questions or is there room to craft a response about *how* we used the full statutory time and the need to request additional time?

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**From:** Simon, Spencer <spencer\_simon@fws.gov>

**Sent:** Friday, March 3, 2023 8:06 AM

**To:** Schulz, Cindy <cindy\_schulz@fws.gov>; Armstrong, Karen <karen\_armstrong@fws.gov>; Public Affairs, FWHQ <publicaffairs@fws.gov>; Shannon, Keith <Keith\_Shannon@fws.gov>

**Cc:** Bossie, Susan (Amanda) <Susan.Bossie@sol.doi.gov>; Marino, Sharon <sharon\_marino@fws.gov>

**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Press inquiry on March 2 from Energywire for Fish and Wildlife Service

Atty/Client Privilege

The groups clearly are uninformed. Not only did we use the full statutory time allotted, we requested additional time. Further, section 7 is not a public process, there is no statutory public comment period like there is in NEPA.

(b) (5)

Spencer Simon  
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**From:** Schulz, Cindy <cindy\_schulz@fws.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 3, 2023 7:27 AM  
**To:** Armstrong, Karen <karen\_armstrong@fws.gov>; Public Affairs, FWHQ <publicaffairs@fws.gov>; Shannon, Keith <Keith\_Shannon@fws.gov>  
**Cc:** Bossie, Susan (Amanda) <Susan.Bossie@sol.doi.gov>; Simon, Spencer <spencer\_simon@fws.gov>; Marino, Sharon <sharon\_marino@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Press inquiry on March 2 from Energywire for Fish and Wildlife Service

Please see inquiry below.

Cindy Schulz  
Field Office Supervisor  
Virginia Ecological Services  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
6669 Short Lane  
Gloucester, VA 23061  
~~804-824-2426 office~~  
804-654-1842 cell

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**From:** Carlos Anchondo <canchondo@eenews.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 3, 2023 6:57 AM  
**To:** Armstrong, Karen <karen\_armstrong@fws.gov>; Public Affairs, FWHQ <publicaffairs@fws.gov>; Schulz, Cindy <cindy\_schulz@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Press inquiry on March 2 from Energywire for Fish and Wildlife Service

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My apologies for using Forest Service — I meant Fish and Wildlife Service in these questions.

Thank you.

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**From:** Carlos Anchondo  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 2, 2023 6:44:43 PM  
**To:** Armstrong, Karen <[karen\\_armstrong@fws.gov](mailto:karen_armstrong@fws.gov)>; [publicaffairs@fws.gov](mailto:publicaffairs@fws.gov) <[publicaffairs@fws.gov](mailto:publicaffairs@fws.gov)>; [cindy\\_schulz@fws.gov](mailto:cindy_schulz@fws.gov) <[cindy\\_schulz@fws.gov](mailto:cindy_schulz@fws.gov)>  
**Subject:** Press inquiry on March 2 from Energywire for Fish and Wildlife Service

Good morning, Karen and Cindy,

Carlos here with E&E News.

After the biological opinion for the Mountain Valley pipeline project was issued on Tuesday, Feb. 28, and posted Wednesday, March 1, multiple groups have issued statements noting that the Fish and Wildlife Service had 45 days available from the end of formal consultation to issue the biological opinion.

Here is the group Wild Virginia:

- "Rather than use the time available to do the thorough review required, the Service rushed the decision, issuing it on the very day that formal consultation ended," stated Wild Virginia's Conservation Director, David Sligh.

Here is the Sierra Club:

- "In their decision process, the FWS was hasty to put out a new opinion that didn't consider comments from the public."

I would like to know:

- Why didn't the Forest Service use those 45 days to review the comments that were received from petitioners?
- Why did the Forest Service decide to issue the biological opinion on Feb. 28?
- Would the Forest Service like to respond to claims from environmental groups that the Forest Service rushed this decision?

Many thanks,  
Carlos Anchondo  
*Energywire*  
E&E News  
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