



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

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DIVISION OF AIR
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

March 7, 2013

Victoria Foster
Supervisor – Consultations, Planning and Assistance
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
South Florida Ecological Services Office
1339 20th Street
Vero Beach, Florida 32960-3559

Subject: Designation of Non-Federal Representative and Request for Informal Consultation under Section 7 of the Federal Endangered Species Act for the Proposed New Hope Power Company – Okeelanta Cogeneration Station Project

Dear Ms. Foster:

By this letter, the United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 requests informal consultation and concurrence under Section 7 of the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) for the proposed New Hope Power Company (NHPC) – Okeelanta Cogeneration Station (Project). NHPC is proposing to install an additional boiler fired by natural gas with fuel oil as back up.

The Project will result in net emission increases greater than Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) threshold limits for particulate matter of less than or equal to ten microns in diameter, particulate matter of less than or equal to 2.5 microns in diameter, oxides of nitrogen, carbon monoxide, sulfuric acid mist, and greenhouse gases (GHGs); therefore, the project is subject to PSD review. Region 4 will be responsible for issuing a PSD permit regulating GHG emissions and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) is responsible for issuing a PSD permit for the remaining pollutants. The proposed project is located near South Bay in Palm Beach County, Florida.

In processing NHPC's PSD permit application, the EPA must assure that listed species or their critical habitat will not be jeopardized by the changes at the NHPC facility. Although endangered species are discussed in the application, the information contained therein does not appear to be sufficient enough to adequately support a determination that there will be no additional impacts on biological resources. Consequently, we are unable to determine our obligations, if any, under Section 7 of the ESA.

Region 4 would like to begin an informal consultation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Service) regarding the proposed project. NHPC has been designated by Region 4 as the non-federal representative and will be responsible for preparing and submitting a complete Biological Assessment to Region 4 and the Service.

If you have any questions concerning the review of this application, please contact James Purvis of the Air Permits Section at (404) 562-9139.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelly A. Fortin".

Kelly A. Fortin
Acting Chief
Air Permits Section

Enclosure (CD of Application)

cc: Jeff Koerner, FDEP
Mathew Capone, NHPC
Phil Scott, P.E., Golder Associates Inc.