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United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
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FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

IN REPLY REFER TO:

August 27, 2012

Jamie Nuthals
Upper Peninsula Power Company
700 North Adams Street
P.O. Box 19001
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54307-9001

ORIGINAL

Dear Mr. Nuthals:

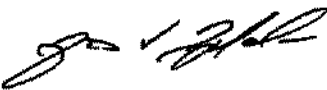
We have received your three letters requesting amendments for the Dead River Hydroelectric Project, Article 411 Wildlife Management Plan, the Escanaba River Hydroelectric Project, Article 416 Wildlife Management Plan and the Prickett Hydroelectric Project, Article 414 Wildlife Management Plan. All three projects are owned and operated by Upper Peninsula Power Company (UPPCO) and are located in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

We recommend UPPCO maintain the wildlife management plans for the aforementioned projects and the requirement for annual maintenance at the wildlife structures. It would be acceptable to us to reduce the number of structures; more specifically, in areas with structures that have limited use by the targeted species. We also recommend that the siting of the structures be re-evaluated to site structures in the appropriate habitat. For example, the bluebird boxes have had limited use. The lands surrounding these reservoirs are mostly forested, not open as the habitat preferred by bluebirds or semi-open as preferred by kestrels which may explain their limited use.

In conclusion, we can accept reducing the number of wildlife structures, especially where their use was limited but also continuing to maintain the annual maintenance for the lower number of structures. We would recommend revising the three wildlife management plans to reflect which structures, the number of structures and the habitat type for the proposed siting. We would like to review the revised wildlife management plans and/or are willing to meet on-site to discuss the habitat and the present siting of the wildlife structures.

Thank you for the opportunity to review these proposed amendments to the wildlife management plans for the Dead River, Escanaba River and Prickett projects. Any questions should be directed to Mr. Burr Fisher at 517/351-8286 or burr_fisher@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

Acting

Scott Hicks
Field Supervisor

cc: Secretary, FERC, Washington DC (8 copies)✓
Kyle Kruger, MDNR, Mio, MI
Norman Nass, USDA, Forest Service, Watersmeet, MI

Document Content(s)

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