



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

MAY 21 2014

Mark E. Slade
Director, Licensing
New York Power Authority
123 Main Street
White Plains, New York 10601

Re: Blenheim Gilboa Pumped Storage Power Project

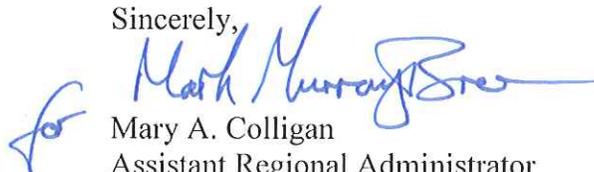
Dear Mr. Slade,

We have reviewed the location of the Blenheim Gilboa Pumped Storage Power Project. It is our understanding that you are preparing to begin the relicensing process with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to renew the operating license of the facility.

No species listed by NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) as threatened or endangered, or species proposed for listing occur near the facility on Schoharie Creek, New York. There is also no designated or proposed critical habitat at the site. As such, no further coordination with us on the effects of the action on listed species or their critical habitat is necessary and we do not anticipate the need for consultation pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended, for the subject Federal action. Please direct any questions regarding the ESA and Section 7 consultation to Julie Crocker of our Protected Resources Division at (978)282-8480.

This project is not located within designated Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and therefore an EFH consultation is not required. Due to the current status of anadromous fishery resources in the vicinity of the site, we will not be providing recommendations under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act at this time. Please direct any questions regarding Essential Fish Habitat to Chris Boelke of our Habitat Conservation Division at (978)281-9131.

Sincerely,



Mary A. Colligan
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Protected Resources

