



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

3817 Luker Road
Cortland, NY 13045

December 16, 2014

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Mail Code: DLC, HL-11.2
888 First St., NE
Washington, DC 20426

**RE: Blenheim-Gilboa Pumped Storage Project (FERC #2685)
Review of Proposed Study Plan**

Dear Ms. Bose:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the September 22, 2014, Proposed Study Plan (PSP) for the Blenheim-Gilboa Pumped Storage Project located on Schoharie Creek in Schoharie County, New York. The Service approves the PSP. Our only comment concerns Section 2.3.7 Task 5 (page 18). The applicant proposes to conduct a desktop fish impingement study to identify those fish at risk of being impinged on the bar racks that have 5.25-inch to 5.625-inch clear spacing. Very few, if any, fish found in Schoharie Creek or the Upper Reservoir are likely to be large enough to be physically excluded from the turbines under the current rack spacing. While fish entrainment may be a critical issue, fish impingement should not be.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the PSP. If you have any questions or desire additional information, please contact Steve Patch at 607-753-9334.

Sincerely,

for 
David A. Stilwell
Field Supervisor

cc: Service List