



New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

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DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION

Lee E. Perry
Executive Director

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Assistant Director

February 10, 2006

Jeffrey Wennberg, Commissioner
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
Department of Environmental Conservation
103 South Main Street
Building 1 South
Waterbury, Vermont 05671-0401

Dear Mr. Wennberg,

This letter is in response to your request for clarification on the position of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (Department) regarding a proposed increase of thermal discharge to the Connecticut River associated with Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee (Entergy), located in Vernon, Vermont. The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) has expressed concern over a perceived conflict among the positions of the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission (Commission), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and our Department, each of which has participated with the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC).

Both the Service and the Department share and support concerns identified by the Commission regarding the sustainability of Atlantic salmon and American shad in the Connecticut River. The Commission has recommended that the ANR postpone issuing an amended permit until appropriate studies have been completed. This position represents an approach that may well be the most effective strategy for the long-term protection of the resource.

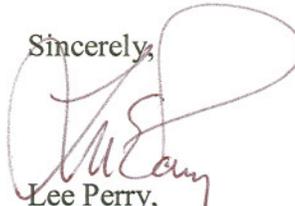
As advisors to the regulatory body (ANR), both the Service and the Department accepted the ANR decision to issue an amended permit that allowed an increase in the thermal discharge to the Connecticut River from June 16 through October 14 while retaining existing discharge limits from May 16 to June 15. Our concurrence on allowing an increase from June 16 through October 14 was contingent on future studies being conducted to determine what effects the new thermal regime may have on certain life stages of American shad.

Throughout the permit amendment process, we have consistently expressed concerns over potential impacts to American shad from Entergy's thermal effluent. It was our understanding that specific studies aimed at addressing these outstanding concerns would be a condition of the permitting process. I understand that, at this point, the ANR has not included these conditions in the draft permit. It is our hope that the ANR will require these studies.

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In summary, we do not see substantial conflict among the Commission and the agencies on this matter. The Commission and the agency advisors believe that studies of the impacts of the increased thermal discharge are needed to assure protection of anadromous fishery resources.

Sincerely,



Lee Perry,
Executive Director

cc:Gabe Gries

Bill Ingham

Marvin Moriarty, Regional Director, USFWS