



# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services  
Nebraska Field Office  
203 West Second Street  
Grand Island, Nebraska 68801

June 17, 2014

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street NE  
Washington, DC 20426

**RE: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Comments on Draft Environmental Assessment, Loup River Hydroelectric Project, Project No. P-1256-031, Nebraska**

Dear Secretary Bose:

This letter is in response to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) May 22, 2014, request for comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment for Loup River Hydroelectric Project in Nebraska (Project No. P-1256-031). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is unable to develop and file comprehensive comments within the designated comment period. In place of written comments, it is recommended that the Commission consider supplemental information filed by the Service on January 3, 2013; February 12, 2013; and April 16, 2014. The Service is reviewing that portion of the Draft Environmental Assessment that the Commission intends to serve as its biological assessment for consultation under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. After our review, we intend to respond in the context of your agency's June 4, 2014, request to initiate formal consultation under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

This letter is also in response to the Commission's May 28, 2014, request for Section 10(j) of the Federal Power Act preliminary determination of inconsistency. The Service accepts the Commission's alternative section 10(j) recommendations; therefore, the Service will not request a meeting, telephone or video conference, or any other additional procedure to attempt to resolve any preliminary determination of inconsistency.

Should you have questions, please contact Mr. Jeff Runge within our office at [jeff\\_runge@fws.gov](mailto:jeff_runge@fws.gov) or (308)382-6468, extension 22.

Sincerely,

Kirk D. Schroeder  
Acting Nebraska Field Supervisor

cc: DOI; Denver, CO (Attn: Robert Stewart)  
LPD; Columbus, NE (Attn: Neil Zuess)  
NGPC; Lincoln, NE (Attn: Frank Albrecht)  
NPPD; Columbus, NE (Attn: John Shadle)  
USFWS; Lakewood, CO (Attn: Maria Boroja)