



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
CRANE DIVISION  
NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE CENTER  
300 HIGHWAY 361  
CRANE, INDIANA 47522-5001

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
5090  
Ser 095/U5121  
5 MAY 1995

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Division of Ecological Services  
Attn: Cindy M. Chaffee  
620 S. Walker Street  
Bloomington, IN 47403

Dear Ms. Chaffee:

This letter is a follow-up to the meeting held at your office on March 15, 1995. In attendance were Mr. Lynn Andrews and Mr. Thomas Brent of Crane Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center (NAVSURFWARCENDIV Crane), and Mr. Allan Hale of Rust Environment and Infrastructure.

The purpose of the meeting was to address concerns the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) had pertaining to the ecological risk assessment for the Open Burning, Open Detonation (OB/OD) operations at NAVSURFWARCENDIV Crane. The USFWS letter dated February 9, 1995, responding to NAVSURFWARCENDIV Crane's request for endangered and threatened species information, was the basis for the discussions.

A copy of the Risk Assessment Workplan was provided, which hopefully has provided abundant details on the procedures and scope of the ecological risk assessment. In addition to the activities set forth in the Workplan, NAVSURFWARCENDIV Crane agreed to:

- a. Conduct ultrasonic screening in and around the affected OB/OD units to determine the level of bat activity (if any). NAVSURFWARCENDIV Crane will also attempt to identify suitable habitat for the Indiana bat. A mist netting program will be implemented if indicated by the ultrasonic screening and habitat studies. Support from the USFWS will be necessary for obtaining permits to conduct Indiana bat studies; and
- b. Walk drainages in and around the OB/OD units during site surveys to look specifically for the presence of threatened and endangered mussel species.

Discussions were also held concerning the need for conducting bald eagle studies. The opinion of USFWS was, that due to the success of the southern eagle pair at NAVSURFWARCENDIV Crane, the presence of new nests on White River, and the ongoing coordination with USFWS, there would not be a need to conduct any additional physical site studies over and above those already underway. Normal surveillance of the eagles will continue.

The support and assistance of USFWS has been greatly appreciated. NAVSURFWARCENDIV Crane desires to address any and all concerns the USFWS has pertaining to the ecological risk assessment and threatened and endangered species.

NAVSURFWARCENDIV Crane point of contact is Mr. Thomas J. Brent, Code 09510, telephone 812-854-6160.

Sincerely,



G. K. HILL  
Deputy Director, Public Works Directorate  
By direction of the Commander

Copy to:  
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NAVSURFWARCENDIV, LYNN ANDREWS (CODE 09228)  
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