

Kay Flynn

ORIGINAL

From: Mary Anne Helton
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2006 8:56 AM
To: Kay Flynn
Cc: Rick Melson
Subject: FW: US Fish and Wildlife Service Comments, PSC DRAFT Hurricane Hardening Plan

Attachments: 02206 LTR TO PSC RE HURRICANE HARDENING.doc



02206 LTR TO
RE HURRICAN

Kay, please file in Docket No. 060000. Thanks, Mary Anne

-----Original Message-----

From: Mary Anne Helton
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2006 8:55 AM
To: Barry Moline; Beth Salak; Bill Feaster; Bill McNulty; Billy Stiles; Bob Trapp; Brenda Buchan; Carl Vinson; Charles Beck; Chuck Hill; Clayton Lewis; Cochran Keating; Commissioner Charles A. Falcone, Ph.D. (Jupiter); Commissioners & Staffs; Connie Kummer; Dale Mailhot; Dan Hoppe; David McDonald; Diana Caldwell; Dr. Kurt Gurley; Dr. Ron Cook; Dr. Tom Sputo; Earl Poucher; Ed Gray; Edward Mills; Gary Furman; Gary Livingston; Harold Mclean; Howard Bryant; Jack English; James McRoy; Jennifer Brubaker; Jim Breman; Jim Dean; Joe McGlothlin; John Burnett; Karen Culpepper; Karla Barnes; Kathy Lewis; Kevin Bloom; Lee Willis; Lisa Harvey; Mark Futrell; Marshall Willis; Mary Anne Helton; Mary Bane; Mary Wolter Glass ; Mayor Slesnic; Michelle Hershel; Mike Lee; Mike Twomey, Esq.; Norman "Doc" Horton, Esq.; Pam May; Patrick Bryan; Patti Zellner; Patty Christensen; Paul Davis; Paul Lewis; Renae Deaton; Rick Melson; Ron Goforth; Roy Jazowski; Russell Badders; Sid Matlock; Tim Devlin; Tim Hughes; Tom Ballinger; Wendy Holt
Cc: 'jim_valade@fws.gov'
Subject: FW: US Fish and Wildlife Service Comments, PSC DRAFT Hurricane Hardening Plan

Attached please find an e-mail and letter from the United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, concerning Item No. 3 at the February 27, 2006, Florida Public Service Commission Internal Affairs meeting, which was staff's post-Electric Infrastructure Workshop Recommendation to the Commission.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Mary Anne Helton
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Florida Public Service Commission
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-----Original Message-----

From: Jim_Valade@fws.gov [mailto:Jim_Valade@fws.gov]
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2006 3:49 PM
To: Mary Anne Helton
Cc: Dave_Hankla@fws.gov; Linda_D_Walker@fws.gov; Dawn_Jennings@fws.gov; Nicole_Adimey@fws.gov

DOCUMENT NUMBER DATE

01688 FEB 28 06

Subject: US Fish and Wildlife Service Comments, PSC DRAFT Hurricane Hardening Plan

Dear Ms. Helton:

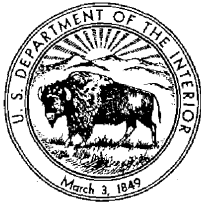
Pursuant to the Public Service Commission's (PSC) request for comments on the DRAFT Hurricane Hardening Plan, the US Fish and Wildlife Service has prepared comments on the matter in the attached letter (a hard copy of the letter will be provided to the PSC tomorrow). As stated in the letter, if you should have any comments, questions, or concerns with regard to this letter, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

Jim Valade

(See attached file: 02206 LTR TO PSC RE HURRICANE HARDENING.doc)

Jim Valade, Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Recovery Lead, Florida Manatee
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
6620 Southpoint Drive, South Suite 310
Jacksonville, Florida 32216-0958

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United States Department of the Interior

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In Reply Refer To:
FWS/R4/ES-JAFL

February 27, 2006

Ms. Mary Anne Helton, Attorney
Office of the General Counsel
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd
Tallahassee, Fl 32399-0872

Re: Final Draft of the "Florida Public Services Commission's Staff Recommendations to the Commission Internal Affairs, System Hardening"

Dear Ms. Helton:

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) reviewed the Final Draft of the "Florida Public Services Commission's Staff Recommendations to the Commission Internal Affairs, System Hardening" and would like to offer the following comments:

The Florida manatee has come to depend upon Florida's power plants as a place of refuge during the winter. The power plant discharges provide about 2/3 of Florida's population of this endangered species with essential habitat, habitat without which they will survive.

While the hurricane season is generally over well in advance of the winter season, the long-term loss of power plant operations due to a hurricane seriously crippling a power plant could have a significant, catastrophic, effect on manatees known to use these sites. In the absence of warm water from power plants disabled by hurricanes, manatees will be exposed to cold weather extremes and may die as a result of this exposure. A contingency plan is needed to ensure that steps are in place to protect manatees from the loss of warm water.

In addition to the loss of warm water, manatees may be affected by hurricanes through other venues. Studies are currently taking place to assess the effect of hurricanes on manatees. One study has identified hurricane-related decreases in survival rates and another study seeks to assess the effect of hurricane-related fuel spills on manatees. Both studies are important to assessing manatee response to hurricanes and our ability to respond to these events.

While human safety is of paramount concern in regard to hurricanes, the protection of endangered species such as the manatee from these events is also a sensitive issue. The Service recommends, therefore, that system hardening plans include measures to assess and protect manatees dependent upon the continued operation of Florida's power plants. Please contact Jim Valade at 904 232-2580 ext 118 (or Jim_Valade@fws.gov) if you have any questions or concerns with regard to this recommendation. Many thanks for the opportunity comment upon this important issue.

Sincerely,

David L. Hankla
Field Supervisor

(SIGNED)