



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office
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January 20, 2009

F/SER4:PB/pw

Mr. Melvin T. Swoboda, Licensing Manager
Toledo Bend Project Joint Operation
P.O. Box 579
Orange, Texas 77631-0579

**Re: Toledo Bend Hydroelectric Project (P-2305-020), Sabine River, Texas and Louisiana
Comments on Pre-Application Document, Scoping Document 1, Proposed Study Plans**

Dear Mr. Swoboda:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reviewed the referenced documents provided with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) Notice of Intent to File an Application for a New License and Commencing Licensing Proceeding, dated November 21, 2008.

The pre-application document, scoping document 1, and proposed study plans presented in appendix G are adequate for development of information needed to address the potential effects of the project on fishery and aquatic resources that are under the purview of NMFS. Those resources include marine and estuarine fish and invertebrates, migratory diadromous fish, wetlands and deepwater habitats used by the species groups mentioned, and essential fish habitats (EFH) identified by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC) in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

We look forward to participating in the proceeding. For information or consultation related to the Endangered Species Act, please contact Mr. Eric Hawk, Southeast Region ESA Section 7 Coordinator, at the letterhead address or by email to Eric.Hawk@noaa.gov. All other correspondence related to NOAA-trust resources should be directed to Mr. Prescott Brownell, our regional contact for FERC hydropower licensing, at 219 Fort Johnson Road, Charleston, South Carolina, 29412; he also may be reached at (843) 953-7204 or Prescott.Brownell@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

/ for

Miles M. Croom
Assistant Regional Administrator
Habitat Conservation Division

cc: Service List

