

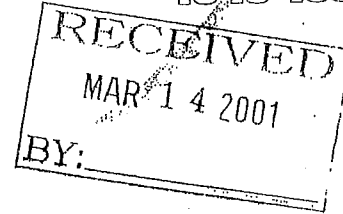
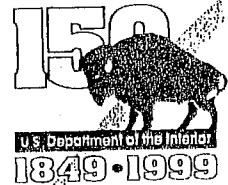


United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

646 Cajundome Blvd.
Suite 400
Lafayette, Louisiana 70506

March 7, 2001



Mr. James A. Hagen, Jr.
Balar Associates, Inc.
631 Milam Street, Suite 200
Shreveport, Louisiana 71101

Dear Mr. Hagen:

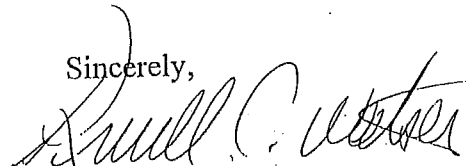
Please reference your February 7, 2001, letter requesting our review of Caddo/Bossier Port Commission's proposal to construct a distribution system for the communities of south Caddo Parish, Louisiana. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has reviewed the information provided and offers the following comments in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

No Federally listed threatened or endangered species presently occur within the proposed project area. Therefore, no further consultation will be required unless there are changes in the scope or location of the project, or project construction has not been initiated within 1 year. If the project has not been initiated within 1 year, follow-up consultation should be accomplished with this office prior to making expenditures for construction. If the scope or location of the proposed work is changed, consultation should occur as soon as such changes are made.

The proposed project may impact wetlands. For a complete jurisdictional wetland delineation of the proposed project, please contact Mr. Larry Harper (601/631-5290) at the Vicksburg District Corps of Engineers (Corps). If the Corps determines that the proposed project is within their regulatory jurisdiction, official U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service comments will be provided in response to the corresponding Public Notice.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments in the planning stages of this proposed project. If you need further assistance, please contact Brigitte Decoteau (337/291-3108) of this office.

Sincerely,


Russell C. Watson
Acting Field Supervisor

cc: Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg, MS
LDWF, Natural Heritage Program, Baton Rouge, LA