

APPENDIX F: U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CONSULTATION LETTER



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Twin Cities Field Office
4101 East 80th Street
Bloomington, Minnesota 55425-1665

JUN - 8 2005

Ms. JoAnn M. Kyrál
Superintendent
Mississippi National River and Recreation Area
National Park Service
111 East Kellogg Blvd., Suite 105
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1256

Dear Ms. Kyrál:


This responds to your April 21, 2005, letter, requesting our review of information on federally listed species within the Bureau of Mines Twin Cities Research Center site located in Section 20, T28N, R23W, Hennepin County, Minnesota.

The federally endangered Higgins' eye pearl mussel (*Lampsilis higginsii*) and the federally threatened bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) are documented for Hennepin County. We have reviewed our information on the Research Center site and found no records of federally listed species within the area identified. There are no records of bald eagle nest sites within the project area. Higgins' eye are now being propagated in the Mississippi River at River Mile 846.5 by the Fish and Wildlife Service in coordination with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources under the guidance of the Higgins' eye Recovery Team.

Because of the location and type of activity proposed, we concur with your determination that this project is not likely to adversely affect any federally listed or proposed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat. This precludes the need for further action on this project as required under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. If the project is modified or new information becomes available which indicates that a federally listed species may be affected, consultation with this office should be reinitiated.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment and look forward to working with you in the future. If you have questions regarding our comments, please call Mr. R. Nicholas Rowse of my staff at (612) 725-3548, extension 210 or by email at nick_rowse@fws.gov.

Sincerely,



Dan P. Stinnett
Field Supervisor

Cc: Bonita Eliason, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, St. Paul, MN
Robert Whiting, St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers, St. Paul, MN