



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
MOBILE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 2288
MOBILE, AL 36628-0001

MAY 23 2011

Mr. Donald Imm
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1601 Balboa Avenue
Panama City, Florida 32405-3721

Dear Mr. Imm:

On March 4, 2011 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) notified your office of our agreement to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) request to extend the Revised Interim Operations Plan (RIOP) reinitiated consultation date of completion from April 1, 2011 to June 1, 2011. That extension was based on the need for additional time to thoroughly review new information relevant to the endangered fat threeridge mussel (*Amblema neislerii*) population in the Apalachicola River. Considerable work has occurred since that time in an effort to complete the consultation by June 1, 2011. However, our offices recently agreed that it would be useful for our analysis of these issues for the Corps to develop a ResSim model to simulate Run-of-River (ROR) operations.

Unfortunately, this additional modeling and analysis work cannot be completed in time to complete the consultation by June 1, 2011. In accordance with section 7(b)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act and FWS regulations at 50 CFR 402.14(e) we are requesting an extension to the period of consultation. We believe that an additional 60 days would provide sufficient time to develop the model(s) and conduct the effects analysis. This will extend the date of completion of consultation from the previously agreed to date of June 1, 2011 to the extended date of August 1, 2011.

If you have any questions regarding our consultation or the information provided to date, please contact [REDACTED] of the Inland Environment Team, [REDACTED], or Email: [REDACTED]. We look forward to continued progress as we work with you and your staff to complete our respective consultation responsibilities.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Roemhildt, P.E.
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Commander