



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Field Office
1601 Balboa Avenue
Panama City, FL 32405-3721

(850) 769-0552
fax 763-2177

February 2, 2007

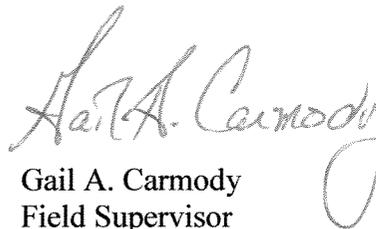
Curtis Flakes
Inland Environment Team
Planning Environmental Division
Mobile District, Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 2288
Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001

Dear Mr. Flakes:

The Service has received your letter dated January 30, 2007, requesting a time extension for complying with the terms and conditions for Reasonable and Prudent Measure No. 3 (RPM3) of our Biological Opinion dated September 5, 2006, which addressed the Interim Operating Plan (IOP) for Jim Woodruff Dam. The purpose of RPM3 is to develop modifications to the IOP that provide a higher minimum flow to the Apalachicola River when reservoir storage and hydrologic conditions permit.

We agree that continuing to consult on an IOP modifications proposal until February 28, 2007, is warranted. We concur that delaying compliance with RPM3 will not result in an adverse effect on listed species. We look forward to receiving your proposal for RPM3 and your biological assessment of its effects.

Sincerely yours,


Gail A. Carmody
Field Supervisor