

Richard Nelson, Field Supervisor  
Rock Island Illinois Field Office  
United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
1511 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Moline, Illinois 61265

Dear Mr. Nelson:

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S. C. 1531 et seq.), the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the biological information and analysis related to a Prevention of Significant Deterioration permit for a proposed expansion to the Continental Tire The Americas, LLC (CTTA), Mt. Vernon, Illinois facility to determine what impact there may be to any threatened or endangered species. The purpose of this letter is to seek concurrence from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service on our determination that the proposed project may affect but is not likely to adversely affect any federally listed species in relation to the proposed air quality permit for this facility.

CTTA is proposing to expand the Passenger and Light Truck area of its facility located in Mt. Vernon, Illinois. CTTA provided an analysis of impacts from the proposed expansion on March 10, 2011. The analysis was prepared by Trinity Consultants. CTTA provided a copy of the analysis to Michael Coffey of your staff. EPA finds that the analysis performed by Trinity Consultants provides a conservative estimate of impacts from the expansion, and that the actual impact for the project will likely be less than predicted. The additional impact to threatened or endangered species from the expansion is insignificant with respect to background and selected benchmarks. Based on the information submitted, EPA finds that the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect any endangered or threatened species. If you have any questions with respect to this letter, please contact Rachel Rineheart, of my staff, at (312) 886-7017.

Sincerely,

Pamela Blakley  
Chief  
Air Permits Section

cc: Laurel Kroak, IEPA