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7 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
DISTRICT OF ARIZONA
8 **TUCSON DIVISION**

9 _____)
Center for Biological Diversity,) Case No:
10)
Plaintiff,)
11) **COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY**
vs.) **AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**
12)
E. Scott Pruitt, in his official capacity as) (Environmental Matter—Endangered
13 Administrator of the U.S. Environmental) Species Act and National Environmental
Protection Agency, and U.S. Environmental) Policy Act)
14 Protection Agency,)
15 Defendants.)
16 _____)

17 **I. INTRODUCTION**

18 1. Plaintiff the Center for Biological Diversity (Center) brings this Endangered
19 Species Act (ESA) citizen suit to compel the United States Environmental Protection
20 Agency (EPA) to consult with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the
21 National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) [collectively, the Services] over its delay of
22

1 the effluent limitation guidelines for toxic discharges into water from coal-burning power
2 plants (Delay Rule¹). The Center also seeks to compel EPA to conduct a review of the
3 Delay Rule pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

4 **II. JURISDICTION**

5 2. The Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 16 U.S.C. §
6 1540(g)(1)(A). The Court has jurisdiction to review EPA’s failure to consult with the
7 Services under the citizen-suit provision of the ESA, 16 U.S.C. § 1540(g)(1), and
8 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331, which provides that the “district courts shall have
9 jurisdiction . . . to enforce any such provision or regulation” of the ESA.

10 3. An actual controversy exists between the parties. This case does not concern
11 federal taxes, is not a proceeding under 11 U.S.C. §§ 505 or 1146, and does not involve
12 the Tariff Act of 1930. Thus, this Court has authority to order the declaratory relief
13 requested under 28 U.S.C. § 2201. If the Court orders declaratory relief, 28 U.S.C. §
14 2202 authorizes this Court to issue injunctive relief.

15 **III. NOTICE**

16 4. As required by the ESA, the Center provided 60 days notice of its intent to sue by
17 letter sent to EPA and the Services on October 12, 2017. More than 60 days have passed
18 since EPA received this “notice of intent to sue” letter. EPA has not remedied the
19 violations alleged in this Complaint. Therefore, a present and actual controversy exists.
20

21 ¹ Postponement of Certain Compliance Dates for the ELGs and Standards For Steam
22 Electric Power Generating Point Source Category, 82 Fed. Reg. 43,494 (Sept. 18, 2017)
(codified at 40 C.F.R. §§ 423.11(t); 423.13(g)(1)(i), (k)(1)(i); 423.15(e), (g)).

1 **IV. VENUE**

2 5. The Center resides in this judicial district and in Pima County, which is in the
3 Tucson Division. Defendant EPA resides in this judicial district. This is a civil action in
4 which a defendant is an agency of the United States. No real property is involved in this
5 action. Therefore, venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e).

6 **V. PARTIES**

7 6. Plaintiff the CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (Center) is a non-profit
8 501(c)(3) corporation with its principle place of business in Tucson, Arizona. The Center
9 has approximately 63,000 members throughout the United States and the world.

10 7. The Center’s mission is to ensure the preservation, protection, and restoration of
11 biodiversity, native species, ecosystems, public lands and waters, and public health
12 through science, policy, and environmental law. Based on the understanding that the
13 health and vigor of human societies and the integrity and wildness of the natural
14 environment are closely linked, the Center is working to secure a future for animals and
15 plants hovering on the brink of extinction, for the ecosystems they need to survive, and
16 for a healthy, livable future for all of us.

17 8. The Center’s members live, work, recreate, travel and engage in other activities
18 throughout the areas at issue in this complaint and will continue to do so on a regular
19 basis. Toxic discharges from coal-burning power plants allowed under the Delay Rule in
20 the affected areas threatens and damages, and will continue to threaten and damage, the
21 health and welfare of Center’s members as well as their ability to engage in and enjoy
22 their other activities. Toxic discharges from coal-burning power plants allowed under the

1 Delay Rule diminish the Center’s members’ ability to enjoy the aesthetic qualities and
2 recreational opportunities of the affected area.

3 9. EPA’s failure to timely consult with the Services and conduct an analysis under
4 NEPA also adversely affects the Center, as well as its members, by depriving them of
5 procedural protection and opportunities, as well as information that they are entitled to
6 under NEPA and the ESA. The failure of EPA to timely consult with the Services and
7 conduct an analysis under NEPA also creates uncertainty for the Center’s members as to
8 whether they and the water bodies they enjoy are exposed to excess toxic discharges and
9 indirect impacts.

10 10. The above injuries will continue until the Court grants the relief requested herein.

11 11. Defendant Scott Pruitt is the Administrator of the EPA. Defendant EPA is an
12 agency of the United States. EPA has authority to limit toxic effluent discharged from
13 coal-burning power plants. Under the ESA, EPA is responsible, in consultation with the
14 Service, for ensuring that its authorization of toxic effluent discharges from coal-burning
15 power plants do not jeopardize the survival and recovery of listed species or adversely
16 affect their critical habitat. *See* 16 U.S.C. § 1536(a)(2).

17 **VI. LEGAL BACKGROUND**

18 A. The Endangered Species Act

19 12. Congress enacted the ESA, in part, to provide a “means whereby the ecosystems
20 upon which endangered species and threatened species depend may be conserved . . .
21 [and] a program for the conservation of such endangered species and threatened
22 species” *Id.* § 1531(b).

1 13. The ESA vests primary responsibility for administering and enforcing the statute
2 with the Secretaries of Commerce and Interior. The Secretaries of Commerce and
3 Interior have delegated this responsibility to the National Marine Fisheries Service
4 (NMFS) and the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) respectively.

5 14. When a species has been listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA, all
6 federal agencies—including the EPA—must ensure that their programs and activities are
7 in compliance with the ESA.

8 15. To this end, Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA requires that all federal agencies “insure”
9 that their actions “are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered
10 species or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of” their
11 critical habitat. *Id.* § 1536(a)(2). The “institutionalized caution” embodied in the ESA
12 requires federal agencies to give the benefit of the doubt to listed species and places the
13 burden of risk and uncertainty on the proposed action. *See Sierra Club v. Marsh*, 816
14 F.2d 1376, 1386 (9th Cir. 1987); *Tenn. Valley Auth. v. Hill*, 437 U.S. 153, 180 (1978).

15 16. The ESA establishes an interagency consultation process to assist federal agencies
16 in complying with their substantive section 7(a)(2) duty to guard against jeopardy to
17 listed species or destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. Under section
18 7(a)(2), federal agencies must consult with the appropriate expert fish and wildlife
19 agency to determine whether their actions will jeopardize any listed species’ survival or
20 adversely modify designated critical habitat and, if so, to identify ways to modify the
21 action to avoid that result. *See* 50 C.F.R. § 402.14.

22

1 17. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is the expert fish and wildlife
2 agency with respect to anadromous and marine species and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
3 Service (FWS) is the expert agency with respect to terrestrial and freshwater species.

4 18. The Services have adopted joint regulations governing the section 7(a)(2)
5 consultation process. Under the joint regulations, a federal agency must initiate a section
6 7(a)(2) consultation with NMFS or FWS whenever it undertakes an “action” that “may
7 affect” a listed species or critical habitat. 50 C.F.R. § 402.14(a). The threshold for a
8 “may affect” determination and the required ESA section 7(a)(2) consultation is low. *See*
9 51 Fed. Reg. 19,926, 19,949 (June 3, 1986) (“Any possible effect, whether beneficial,
10 benign, adverse or of an undetermined character, triggers the formal consultation
11 requirement”). *See also* U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERV. & NAT’L MARINE FISHERIES
12 SERV., ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSULTATION HANDBOOK 3-13, 4-26 (1998). An agency
13 is relieved of the obligation to consult only if the action will have “no effect” on listed
14 species or designated critical habitat.

15 19. The joint regulations broadly define the scope of agency actions subject to ESA
16 section 7(a)(2) mandates to encompass “all activities or programs of any kind authorized,
17 funded, or carried out, in whole or in part, by [f]ederal agencies,” including the
18 promulgation of regulations and the granting of licenses. *See* 50 C.F.R. § 402.02
19 (definition of “action”).

20 20. If an agency determines that its action “may affect” but is “not likely to adversely
21 affect” a listed species or its critical habitat, ESA regulations permit “informal
22 consultation,” in which there is no requirement for a biological opinion so long as NMFS

1 or FWS concurs in writing with the “not likely to adversely affect” determination. *Id.* §
2 402.13. If the Service(s) do not concur with the “not likely to adversely affect”
3 determination or if the action agency determines that the action is “likely to adversely
4 affect” the listed species, the agencies must engage in “formal consultation.” *Id.* §§
5 402.02, 402.14(a).

6 21. Formal consultation “is a process between the Service and the [f]ederal agency
7 that commences with the [f]ederal agency’s written request for consultation under section
8 7(a)(2) of the Act and concludes with the Service’s issuance of the biological opinion
9 under section 7(b)(3) of the Act.” *Id.* § 402.02.

10 22. In a biological opinion, the Services must determine whether the federal action
11 subject to the consultation will jeopardize the survival and recovery of listed species or
12 will destroy or adversely modify critical habitat. 16 U.S.C. § 1536(b)(4). If the Services
13 determine that the action will jeopardize the species or destroy or adversely modify its
14 critical habitat, the biological opinion must specify any reasonable and prudent
15 alternative the action agency could take to avoid jeopardy or specify that there is no
16 reasonable and prudent alternative. *Id.* § 1536(b)(4)(A); 50 C.F.R. § 402.14(h)(3). The
17 Services and the action agencies must use the best available science in consultations,
18 biological opinions, and jeopardy and adverse modification determinations. 16 U.S.C. §
19 1536(a)(2); 50 C.F.R. § 402.14(g)(8).

20 23. Compliance with the procedural provisions of the ESA—identifying the likely
21 effects of the action through the consultation process—is integral to compliance with the
22 substantive requirements of the Act. Under the statutory framework, federal actions that

1 “may affect” a listed species or critical habitat may not proceed unless and until the
2 federal agency ensures, through completion of the consultation process, that the action is
3 not likely to cause jeopardy or adverse modification of critical habitat. 16 U.S.C. §
4 1536(a); 50 C.F.R. §§ 402.13, 402.14; *see also* 16 U.S.C. § 1536(d).

5 24. Even after the procedural requirements of a consultation are complete, the ultimate
6 duty to ensure that an action will not likely jeopardize a listed species or adversely
7 modify its critical habitat lies with the action agency. If the Services find that a proposed
8 action avoids jeopardy and adverse modification of critical habitat, this substantive duty
9 is fulfilled by implementing that action in accordance with any conditions or
10 requirements established during the consultation process, including any measures
11 necessary to minimize take. If the Services develop a reasonable and prudent alternative
12 necessary to avoid jeopardy and/or adverse modification of critical habitat, the action
13 agency can most easily fulfill its substantive duty by implementing the reasonable and
14 prudent alternative and any other measures developed during the consultation process.

15 25. However, an action agency is technically free to choose another alternative course
16 of action if it can independently ensure that the alternative will avoid jeopardy and
17 adverse modification.

18 B. National Environmental Policy Act

19 26. The National Environmental Policy Act is “our basic national charter for
20 protection of the environment.” 40 C.F.R. § 1500.1(a). Its twin aims are to facilitate
21 informed agency decision-making and public access to information. By focusing both
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1 agency and public attention on the environmental effects of proposed actions, NEPA
2 facilitates informed decision-making by agencies and fosters public participation.

3 27. To accomplish these objectives, NEPA requires “responsible [federal] officials” to
4 prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to consider the effects of each “major
5 Federal action[] significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.” 42 U.S.C.
6 § 4332(2)(C). To determine whether the impacts of a proposed action are significant
7 enough to warrant preparation of an EIS, the agency may prepare an Environmental
8 Assessment or “EA.”

9 28. Under NEPA’s implementing regulations, an agency’s EA must include “brief
10 discussions of the need for the proposal, of alternatives . . . , [and] of the environmental
11 impacts of the proposed action and alternatives.” 40 C.F.R. § 1508.9(b). The EA must
12 take a “hard look” at the impacts, and if the agency decides the impacts are not
13 significant, it must supply a convincing statement of reasons why.

14 29. The EA must analyze not only the direct impacts of a proposed action, but also the
15 indirect and cumulative impacts. *Id.* §§ 1508.7, 1508.8. Such analysis must include all
16 reasonably foreseeable impacts of the proposed action. *Id.*

17 30. NEPA’s implementing regulations require that the agency “shall identify any
18 methodologies used and shall make explicit reference by footnote to the scientific and
19 other sources relied upon for conclusions,” and shall ensure the scientific accuracy and
20 integrity of its environmental analysis. *Id.* § 1502.24. The agency must disclose if
21 information is incomplete or unavailable and explain “the relevance of the incomplete or
22

1 unavailable information to evaluating reasonably foreseeable significant adverse
2 impacts.” *Id.* § 1502.22(b)(1).

3 31. If, after preparing an EA, the agency determines an EIS is not required, the agency
4 must provide a “convincing statement of reasons” why the project’s impacts are
5 insignificant and issue a Finding of No Significant Impact or “FONSI.” 40 C.F.R. §§
6 1501.4, 1508.9 & 1508.13.

7 **VII. FACTS**

8 A. EPA’s 2015 Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Steam 9 Electric Power Generating Point Source Category

10 32. EPA proposed the Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Steam
11 Electric Power Generating Point Source Category (ELG Rule) in June 2013, explaining
12 that steam electric power plants “contribute 50-60 percent of all toxic pollutant
13 discharged into surface waters by all industrial categories,” and that these level of
14 pollution will only further increase “as pollutants are increasingly captured by air
15 pollution controls and transferred to wastewater discharges.” Effluent Limitations
16 Guidelines and Standards for the Steam Electric Power Generating Point Source
17 Category, Proposed Rule, 78 Fed. Reg. 34,432 (June 7, 2013). As detailed by EPA in its
18 Environmental Assessment (EA) on the ELG Rule and elsewhere, these pollutants, such
19 as mercury and selenium, are damaging a variety of wildlife species inhabiting a wide
20 range of water-based ecosystems across the United States, and pose concrete risks to
21 human health. EPA found that the proposed ELG Rule would reduce pollutant loadings
22

1 from existing sources by more than 95 percent for copper, lead, mercury, nickel,
2 selenium, thallium, and zinc, and more than 90 percent for arsenic and cadmium.

3 33. Similarly, in issuing the Final 2015 ELGs, EPA found that the requirements would
4 reduce the amount of pollutants that steam electric power plants are discharging by 1.4
5 billion pounds. 80 Fed. Reg. 67,838, 67,841 (Nov. 3, 2015). EPA found that these
6 concrete environmental improvements would reduce harm to human health and wildlife,
7 explaining the Rule would provide a “significant number of environmental and ecological
8 improvements and reduced impacts to wildlife and humans from reductions in pollutant
9 loadings” *Id.* at 67,873; *see also id.* at 67,874.

10 B. Administrator Pruitt’s Proposed Delay Rule To Roll Back the Final ELG
11 Rule

12 34. On April 12, 2017, in purported response to requests for “reconsideration”
13 Administrator Pruitt announced he would “reconsider” the ELG Rule and immediately
14 purported to “stay” the rule pending reconsideration. 82 Fed. Reg. 19,005 (April 25,
15 2017). On June 6, 2017, Administrator Pruitt proposed the ELG Delay Rule, claiming
16 compliance dates should be extended because he is reconsidering the Final ELG Rule and
17 has decided polluting companies should not have to start working toward compliance
18 until that reconsideration process is completed. 82 Fed. Reg. 26,017 (June 6, 2017).

19 35. In public comments on that proposal, the Center explained EPA could not finalize
20 the ELG Delay Rule without first complying with the ESA and NEPA, 42 U.S.C. § 4321,
21 *et seq.* With respect to the ESA in particular, the Center explained that EPA must obtain
22 a Biological Opinion from the Services addressing whether the Delay Rule may

1 jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or adversely modify critical habitat;
2 the extent to which the Delay Rule will incidentally take listed species; and the specific
3 measures EPA must carry out to minimize and mitigate those adverse effects. *See* 16
4 U.S.C. § 1536.

5 36. On September 18, 2017, EPA issued its final ELG Delay Rule, delaying the
6 compliance dates for major portions of the 2015 ELGs by two years. 82 Fed. Reg. 43,494
7 (Sept. 18, 2017) (codified at 40 C.F.R. §§ 423.11(t); 423.13(g)(1)(i), (k)(1)(i); 423.15(e),
8 (g)).

9 37. Parroting the insufficient rationale put forward in support of the Proposed Rule,
10 EPA stated that it is delaying the compliance dates for best available technology
11 economically achievable (BACT) effluent limitations and pretreatment standards (PSES)
12 for flue gas desulfurization (FGD) wastewater and bottom ash transport water for two
13 years. *Id.* In particular, while making no substantive findings about changes needed to the
14 2015 ELGs, EPA decided it was appropriate to delay compliance simply to relieve certain
15 coal-burning power plants of complying with the 2015 ELGs while EPA reconsiders
16 them. *Id.*

17 38. Moreover, EPA made it clear that the two-year delay in the ELG Delay Rule was
18 only an *initial* delay, stating that it intends to “further postpone the compliance dates” if
19 necessary to make sure certain coal-burning power plants need not comply until EPA has
20 completed its process of reconsidering – and presumably eliminating or at least
21 significantly weakening – the 2015 ELGs. *Id.* at 43,498 n.6.

22

1 39. In a separate “Response to Comments” document accompanying the ELG Delay
2 Rule, EPA rejected the argument that it had any obligation to engage in ESA Section 7
3 consultation before issuing the Final Rule. According to EPA, it was “not required to
4 consult on this action because the Agency lacks discretion to account for effects on
5 species.”

6 40. EPA does not appear to dispute that the ELG Delay Rule will have adverse
7 impacts on protected species that should trigger the Section 7 consultation process.
8 Indeed, such an argument would be impossible to reconcile with the myriad findings in
9 the record concerning these impacts. To provide just a few examples:

10 • EPA’s own Environmental Assessment for the Final ELG Rule explained that,
11 as a result of the pollutants discharged from these power plants, aquatic species
12 experience “acute effects (e.g., fish kills) and chronic effects (e.g., malformations,
13 and metabolic, hormonal, and behavioral disorders),” as well as “reduced growth
14 and reduced survival [and] changes to the local habitat.” EPA, ENVIRONMENTAL
15 ASSESSMENT FOR EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS FOR
16 STEAM ELECTRIC POWER 3-20 (2015).

17 • The same EA identified “138 threatened and endangered species whose
18 habitats overlap with, or are located within, surface waters that exceeded” water
19 quality standards, and explained that, “[b]ased on evidence in the literature,
20 damage cases, other documented impacts, and modeled receiving water pollutant
21 concentrations, it is clear that current wastewater discharge practices at steam
22

1 electric power plants are impacting the surrounding aquatic and terrestrial
2 environments” *Id.* at 9-1.

3 • In issuing the 2015 ELGs EPA explained that the agency “expects that once the
4 rule is implemented the number of immediate receiving waterbodies with potential
5 impacts to wildlife will begin to be reduced by more than half compared to
6 baseline conditions” 80 Fed. Reg. at 67,874.

7 41. EPA also explained that the ELGs “will improve aquatic and wildlife habitats in
8 the immediate and downstream receiving waters from steam electric power plant
9 discharges,” and that “these water quality and habitat improvements will enhance efforts
10 to protect threatened and endangered species.” *Id.*

11 42. The cost-benefit analysis that accompanied the Final Rule also explained that
12 “[f]or threatened and endangered (T&E) species vulnerable to future extinction,
13 [because] even minor changes to reproductive rates and small levels of mortality may
14 represent a substantial portion of annual population growth,” “steam electric power plant
15 discharges may either lengthen recovery time, or hasten the demise of these species,”
16 and, consequently, the ELGS would positively affect the “recovery trajectory for 15 T&E
17 species.” EPA, BENEFIT AND COST ANALYSIS FOR EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS GUIDELINES
18 2-7, 5-4 (2015). Given that the record overwhelmingly shows implementation of the
19 Final ELG Rule would reduce take and other adverse impacts on protected species from
20 power plants discharges, it is clear that EPA may affect such species by delaying those
21 increased protections through the ELG Delay Rule,—thereby requiring Section 7
22 consultation.

1 43. The fact that, as of today, the coal-burning power plants covered by the Delay
2 Rule are not *yet* required to reduce these discharges under the ELG Rule does not impact
3 EPA’s obligation to consult on the adverse impacts of the Delay Rule. In considering the
4 effects of an action, the ESA’s implementing regulations require an agency to consider
5 those effects in the context of the “environmental baseline,” which includes “the past and
6 present impacts of all Federal, State or private actions and other human activities in the
7 action area” 50 C.F.R. § 402.02; *Def’s. of Wildlife v. Babbitt*, 130 F. Supp. 2d 121,
8 126-27 (D.D.C. 2001). The Final ELG Rule was thus an existing action that EPA was
9 required to make part of the baseline for its analysis. *See, e.g., Nat’l Wildlife Fed’n v.*
10 *Nat’l Marine Fisheries Serv.*, 524 F.3d 917, 929-931 (9th Cir. 2007) (requiring agency
11 evaluate the impacts of proposed dam management actions in light of the most
12 environmentally protective status quo); *Am. Rivers, Inc. v. U.S. Army Corps of Eng’rs*,
13 421 F.3d 618 (8th Cir. 2005) (same); *see also Ctr. for Biological Diversity v. EPA*,
14 861F.3d 174 (D.C. Cir. 2017) (finding consultation required for pesticide registration).

15 **VIII. CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

16 **CLAIM ONE**
17 **(ESA Failure to Consult)**

18 44. Plaintiff incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 43.

19 45. Section 7 of the ESA mandates that:

20 Each Federal agency shall, in consultation with and with the assistance of
21 the Secretary, insure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by
22 such agency . . . is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any
endangered species or threatened species or result in the destruction or
adverse modification of habitat of such species which is determined by the

1 Secretary, after consultation as appropriate with affected States, to be
critical

2 16 U.S.C. § 1536(a)(2).

3 46. Under the ESA’s joint implementing regulations from the FWS and NMFS,
4 whenever a proposed action “may affect” listed species, the agency must initiate this
5 consultation process, 50 C.F.R. § 402.14(a), which generally culminates in one or more
6 Biological Opinions that evaluate the impacts of the action on protected species,
7 including both the “incidental take” of species that will occur, and the steps that must be
8 taken to minimize and mitigate those adverse impacts. 16 U.S.C. § 1536(b); 50 C.F.R. §
9 402.14(g).

10 47. The Delay Rule is an agency action.

11 48. The Delay Rule may affect ESA-listed species or designated critical habitat.

12 49. EPA has discretion regarding the promulgation of the Delay Rule. EPA justified
13 the Delay Rule precisely on its “inherent discretion . . . to reconsider past policy decisions
14 consistent with the CWA and other applicable law.” 82 Fed. Reg. at 43,496 (emphasis
15 added); *see also id.* (claiming EPA is “afforded considerable discretion in deciding”
16 whether to delay compliance dates); (“EPA has discretion in determining technological
17 availability and economic achievability and is not constrained by the CWA to make the
18 same policy decision as the former Administration, so long as its decision is reasonable”)
19 (emphasis added).

20
21 **CLAIM TWO**
(Failure to Conduct NEPA Analysis)

22 50. Plaintiff incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 49.

1 51. Pursuant to NEPA, EPA must take a “hard look” at the consequences,
2 environmental impacts, and adverse effects of its proposed actions. 42 U.S.C. §
3 4332(2)(C); 40 C.F.R. § 1508.9. NEPA requires “responsible [federal] officials” to
4 prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to consider the effects of each “major
5 Federal action[] significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.” 42 U.S.C.
6 § 4332(2)(C). The effects analysis must analyze not only the direct impacts of a
7 proposed action, but also the indirect and cumulative impacts. 40 C.F.R. §§ 1508.7,
8 1508.8, 1508.9. Such analysis must include all reasonably foreseeable impacts of the
9 proposed action.

10 52. The Delay Rule is a Federal action.

11 53. EPA has discretion regarding the promulgation of the Delay Rule.

12 54. EPA did not prepare an EIS for the Delay Rule.

13 55. EPA did not prepare an EA for the Delay Rule.

14 56. EPA did not make a finding of no significant impacts for the Delay Rule.

15 57. By failing to prepare an EA and finding of no significant impacts or an EIS for the
16 Delay Rule, EPA violated NEPA. This made the Delay Rule otherwise contrary to law.

17 **REQUEST FOR RELIEF**

18 WHEREFORE, the Center respectfully requests that the Court:

19 A. Declare that EPA is in violation of section 7(a)(2) of the ESA, 16 U.S.C. §
20 1536(a)(2), by failing to complete consultation necessary to ensure that the Delay
21 Rule is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or destroy
22 or adversely modify their critical habitat and Delay Rule is otherwise contrary to

1 law because EPA failed to comply with NEPA prior to promulgating the Delay
2 Rule;

3 B. Enjoin, vacate and remand the Delay Rule for EPA to complete ESA consultation
4 and a NEPA Analysis;

5 C. Retain jurisdiction of this matter for purposes of enforcing the Court's order;

6 D. Grant Plaintiff their reasonable costs of litigation, including attorneys' and
7 experts' fees; and;

8 E. Grant such further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

9

Dated: January 30, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

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/s/ Jennifer L. Loda

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