



# United States Department of the Interior

**FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**  
176 Croghan Spur Road, Suite 200  
Charleston, South Carolina 29407

December 19, 2002

Mr. Richard L. Emch, Jr.  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Re: Request for Updated List of Protected Species within the Area Under Evaluation for the H.B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant, Unit 2, License Renewal  
Chesterfield, Darlington, Florence, Lee, and Sumter Counties, South Carolina  
FWS No. 4-6-03-T-101

Dear Mr. Emch:

We have reviewed the information received December 16, 2002 concerning the above-referenced project. The following comments are provided in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 661-667e), and section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543).

As requested, we are providing a list of the federally endangered (E) and threatened (T) and candidate (C) species which potentially occur in Chesterfield, Darlington, Florence, Lee, and Sumter Counties, South Carolina to aid you in determining the impacts your project may have on protected species. The list also includes species of concern under review by the Service. Species of concern (SC) are not legally protected under the Endangered Species Act, and are not subject to any of its provisions, including Section 7, until they are formally proposed or listed as endangered/threatened. We are including these species in our response for the purpose of giving you advance notification. These species may be listed in the future, at which time they will be protected under the Endangered Species Act. Therefore, it would be prudent for you to consider these species early in project planning to avoid any adverse effects.

<u>County</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Occurrences</u>
Chesterfield	Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T	Known
	Red-cockaded woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	E	Known
	Shortnose sturgeon	<i>Acipenser brevirostrum*</i>	E	Possible
	Carolina heelsplitter	<i>Lasmigona decorata</i>	E, CH	Known
	Southern Dusky Salamander	<i>Desmognathus auriculatus</i>	SC	Possible

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Dwarf aster	<i>Aster mirabilis</i>	SC	Possible
Sandhills milk-vetch	<i>Astragalus michauxii</i>	SC	Known
White-wicky	<i>Kalmia cuneata</i>	SC	Known
Prairie birdsfoot-trefoil	<i>Lotus purshianus var. helleri</i>	SC	Possible
Carolina bogmint	<i>Macbridea caroliniana</i>	SC	Known
Savannah or Piedmont cowbane	<i>Oxypolis ternata</i>	SC	Known
Algae-like pondweed	<i>Potamogeton confervoides</i>	SC	Known
Well's pixie-moss	<i>Pyxidantha brevifolia</i>	SC	Known
Spring-flowering goldenrod	<i>Solidago verna</i>	SC	Known
Carolina dropseed	<i>Sporobolus sp1</i>	SC	Known
Wire-leaved dropseed	<i>Sporobolus teretifolius</i>	SC	Known
Smooth bog-asphodel	<i>Tofieldia glabra</i>	SC	Known
Bachman's sparrow	<i>Aimophila aestivalis</i>	SC	Possible
Henslow's sparrow	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	SC	Known
American kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	SC	Possible
Loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	SC	Possible
Swainson's warbler	<i>Limnothlypis swainsonii</i>	SC	Known
Painted bunting	<i>Passerina ciris ciris</i>	SC	Known
Redhorse, Robust	<i>Moxostoma robustum</i>	SC	Possible
Southern hognose snake	<i>Heterodon simus</i>	SC	Known
Northern pine snake	<i>Pituophis melanoleucus</i> <i>melanoleucus</i>	SC	Known

### Darlington

Red-cockaded woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	E	Known
Shortnose sturgeon	<i>Acipenser brevirostrum*</i>	E	Possible
Rough-leaved loosestrife	<i>Lysimachia asperulaefolia</i>	E	Known
Southern Dusky Salamander	<i>Desmognathus auriculatus</i>	SC	Possible
Georgia lead-plant	<i>Amorpha georgiana var.</i> <i>georgiana</i>	SC	Known
Sandhills milkvetch	<i>Astragalus michauxii</i>	SC	Known
Honeycomb head	<i>Balduina atropurpurea</i>	SC	Known
Creeping St. John's wort	<i>Hypericum adpressum</i>	SC	Known
White-wicky	<i>Kalmia cuneata</i>	SC	Known
Carolina bogmint	<i>Macbridea caroliniana</i>	SC	Known
Savannah or Piedmont cowbane	<i>Oxypolis ternata</i>	SC	Known
Well's pixie-moss	<i>Pyxidantha brevifolia</i>	SC	Known
Awned meadowbeauty	<i>Rhexia aristosa</i>	SC	Known
Spring-flowering goldenrod	<i>Solidago verna</i>	SC	Known
White false-asphodel	<i>Tofieldia glabra</i>	SC	Known
Bachman's sparrow	<i>Aimophila aestivalis</i>	SC	Possible
Henslow's sparrow	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	SC	Known
American kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	SC	Possible

	Loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	SC	Possible
	Painted bunting	<i>Passerina ciris ciris</i>	SC	Possible
	Madtom, broadtail	Noturus sp 2	SC	Possible
	Rafinesque's big-eared bat	<i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii</i>	SC	Known
<b>Florence</b>				
	Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T	Known
	Red-cockaded woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	E	Known
	Shortnose sturgeon	<i>Acipenser brevirostrum*</i>	E	Known
	Chaffseed	<i>Schwalbea americana</i>	E	Known
	Southern Dusky Salamander	<i>Desmognathus auriculatus</i>	SC	Possible
	Georgia lead-plant	<i>Amorpha georgiana</i> var. <i>georgiana</i>	SC	Known
	Boykin's lobelia	<i>Lobelia boykinii</i>	SC	Known
<b>Florence cont.</b>				
	Carolina bogmint	<i>Macbridea caroliniana</i>	SC	Known
	Awmed meadowbeauty	<i>Rhexia aristosa</i>	SC	Known
	Ovate catchfly	<i>Silene ovata</i>	SC	Known
	White false-asphodel	<i>Tofieldia glabra</i>	SC	Known
	Bachman's sparrow	<i>Aimophila aestivalis</i>	SC	Possible
	Henslow's sparrow	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	SC	Known
	American kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	SC	Possible
	Loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	SC	Possible
	Painted bunting	<i>Passerina ciris ciris</i>	SC	Possible
	Madtom, broadtail	Noturus sp 2	SC	Possible
<b>Lee</b>				
	Red-cockaded woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	E	Known
	Canby's dropwort	<i>Oxypolis canbyi</i>	E	Known
	Chaffseed	<i>Schwalbea americana</i>	E	Known
	Southern Dusky Salamander	<i>Desmognathus auriculatus</i>	SC	Possible
	Awmed meadowbeauty	<i>Rhexia aristosa</i>	SC	Known
	Bachman's sparrow	<i>Aimophila aestivalis</i>	SC	Known
	Henslow's sparrow	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	SC	Known
	American kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	SC	Possible
	Loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	SC	Possible
	Painted bunting	<i>Passerina ciris ciris</i>	SC	Possible
	Madtom, broadtail	Noturus sp 2	SC	Possible
<b>Sumter</b>				
	Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T	Known
	Red-cockaded woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	E	Known
	Shortnose sturgeon	<i>Acipenser brevirostrum*</i>	E	Known
	Canby's dropwort	<i>Oxypolis canbyi</i>	E	Known

Chaff-seed	<i>Schwalbea americana</i>	E	Known
Southern Dusky Salamander	<i>Desmognathus auriculatus</i>	SC	Possible
Dwarf burhead	<i>Echinodorus parvulus</i>	SC	Known
Boykin's lobelia	<i>Lobelia boykinii</i>	SC	Known
Pineland plantain	<i>Plantago sparsiflora</i>	SC	Known
Awned meadowbeauty	<i>Rhexia aristosa</i>	SC	Known
Biltmore greenbrier	<i>Smilax biltmoreana</i>	SC	Known
Bachman's sparrow	<i>Aimophia aestivalis</i>	SC	Known
Henslow's sparrow	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	SC	Known
American kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	SC	Possible
Loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	SC	Possible
Painted bunting	<i>Passerina ciris ciris</i>	SC	Possible
Madtom, broadtail	<i>Noturus sp 2</i>	SC	Possible

In-house surveys should be conducted by comparing the habitat requirements for the attached listed species with available habitat types at the project site. Field surveys for the species should be performed if habitat requirements overlap with that available at the project site. Surveys for protected plant species must be conducted by a qualified biologist during the flowering or fruiting period(s) of the species. Please notify this office with the results of any surveys for the above list of species.

We also recommend you contact the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), Data Manager, Wildlife Diversity Section, Columbia, SC 29202, concerning known populations of federal and/or state endangered or threatened species, and other sensitive species in the project area. Additional habitat information may also be available from SCDNR. The National Marine Fisheries Service, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2449 should be contacted for consultation on species under their jurisdiction.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment during the planning stages of this project. If you have further questions or require additional information, please contact Sandy Abbott of this office at (843) 727-4707 ext. 57.

Sincerely yours,



Roger L. Banks  
Field Supervisor

RLB/SDA/km