

April 22, 2003

Dr. Stephania K. Bolden
Fishery Biologist
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries
Protected Resources Division
9721 Executive Center Drive North
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

SUBJECT: BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT FOR LICENSE RENEWAL AT H. B. ROBINSON
STEAM ELECTRIC PLANT, UNIT 2 (TAC NO. MB5226)

Dear Mr. Bolden:

The NRC staff has prepared the enclosed biological assessment to evaluate whether the proposed renewal of the H.B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant, Unit 2, operating license for a period of an additional 20 years would have adverse effects on Federally listed species. This biological assessment covers the area of the H.B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant, located in Darlington County, South Carolina, approximately 4.5 miles west northwest of the city of Hartsville, South Carolina and the associated transmission line corridors (Sumter, Florence-South, and Rockingham and Florence-North). The plant is situated on the southwest shore of Lake Robinson, and encompasses approximately 4,800 acres, including the lake in Darlington and Chesterfield Counties.

There are seven threatened or endangered species and one candidate species with the potential to be affected, which are addressed within the attached biological assessment. The staff has determined that the proposed action is not a major construction activity and may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, the redcockaded woodpecker, Canby's dropwort, chaffseed, or the rough-leaved loosestrife; and will have no effect on the bald eagle, shortnose sturgeon, Atlantic sturgeon, or the Carolina heelsplitter. No designated critical habitat for any of these eight species is located near the Robinson plant site or the associated transmission line corridors. We are placing this biological assessment in our project files and requesting your concurrence with our determination for the species within your jurisdiction.

In reaching our conclusion, the NRC staff relied on the geographical information system data base information provided by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, the research performed by the NRC staff and contractors, and a current listing of species provided by your office and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

S. Bolden

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If you have any questions regarding this biological assessment or the staff's request, please contact Mr. Richard Emch by telephone at (301) 415-1590 or by e-mail at rle@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Pao-Tsin Kuo, Program Director
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No.: 50-261

Enclosures: As stated

cc w/encls: See next page

S. Bolden

2

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1. Letter to S. Bolden w/Svc. List: **ML031130427**
2. Encl. 1 - Biological Assessment, H.B. Robinson
Steam Electric Plant, Unit 2 (Nuclear) License Renewal
Review, Hartsville, SC: **ML031140030**
3. Pkg.: **ML031130272**

*See previous concurrence

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OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

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