



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services
6669 Short Lane
Gloucester, VA 23061

November 12, 2003

Ms. Mary Jane Ross-Lee
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop O13D13
Washington, D. C. 20555-0001

Re: Surry Independent Spent Fuel
Storage Installation Species List
#3139, Surry County, Virginia

Dear Ms. Ross-Lee:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has received your request for a list of federally listed or proposed endangered and threatened species and designated critical habitat known to occur on the Surry Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation property in Surry County, Virginia. Attached is a list of species with Federal status and species of concern that have been documented or may occur in the county where your project is located. This list was prepared by this office and is based on information obtained from previous surveys for rare and endangered species.

Further consultation for this project will be handled by Mr. David Sutherland at the Service's Chesapeake Bay Field Office. His phone number is (410) 573-4535. If you have any questions about this list, please contact Mr. Eric Davis at (804) 693-6694, extension 104.

Sincerely,

Karen L. Mayne
Supervisor
Virginia Field Office

Enclosures

cc: David Sutherland, CBFO

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KEY

LE - federally listed endangered.

LT - federally listed threatened.

PE - federally proposed endangered.

PT - federally proposed threatened.

EX - believed to be extirpated in Virginia.

LE(S/A) - federally listed endangered due to similarity of appearance to a federally listed species.

LT(S/A) - federally listed threatened due to similarity of appearance to a federally listed species.

C - candidate species; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has enough information to list the species as threatened or endangered, but this action is precluded by other listing activities.

SOC - species of concern; those species that have been identified as potentially imperiled or vulnerable throughout their range or a portion of their range. These species are not protected under the Endangered Species Act.

G - global rank; the species rarity throughout its total range.

G1^r - extremely rare and critically imperiled with 5 or fewer occurrences or very few remaining individuals; or because of some factor(s) making it especially vulnerable to extinction.

G2 - very rare and imperiled with 6 to 20 occurrences or few remaining individuals; or because of some factor(s) making it vulnerable to extinction.

G3 - either very rare and local throughout its range or found locally (abundantly at some of its locations) in a restricted range; or vulnerable to extinction because of other factors. Usually fewer than 100 occurrences are documented.

G_T_ - signifies the rank of a subspecies or variety. For example, a G3T1 would apply to a subspecies of a species that is very rare and local throughout its range or found locally in a restricted range (G3) but the subspecies warrants a rank of T1, critically imperiled.

G_Q - The taxon has a questionable taxonomic assignment.

SURRY COUNTY, VIRGINIA
Federally Listed, Proposed, and Candidate Species

<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
<u>BIRDS</u>		
Haliaeetus leucocephalus ¹	Bald eagle	LT
<u>PLANTS</u>		
Aeschynomene virginica	Sensitive joint-vetch	LT

Species of Concern

<u>INVERTEBRATES</u>		
Speyeria diana	Diana fritillary	G3
Stygobromus araeus	Tidewater interstitial amphipod	G2
<u>VASCULAR PLANTS</u>		
Carex decomposita	Epiphytic sedge	G3
Chamaecrista fasciculata var. macrosperma	Marsh senna	G5T2
Desmodium ochroleucum	Creamflower tick-trefoil	G2G3
Rudbeckia heliopsis ²	Sun-facing coneflower	G2
Trillium pusillum var. virginianum	Virginia least trillium	G3T2

¹Nesting occurs in this county; concentrated shoreline use has been documented on the James River.

²Surveys needed within 5-miles of Prince George County species location.

March 22, 1999

Prepared by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Virginia Field Office

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Sensitive Joint-Vetch

Aeschynomene virginica



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Description - The sensitive joint-vetch is an annual legume native to the eastern United States.

Populations currently exist in Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Virginia. The historical range for the species extended to Delaware and Pennsylvania. In Virginia, populations are found along the Potomac, Mattaponi, Pamunkey, Rappahannock, Chickahominy, and James Rivers and their tributaries. This plant usually attains a height of three to six feet in a single growing season, but may grow as tall as eight feet. The flowers are yellow, streaked with red and the fruit is a pod, turning dark brown when ripe.

Life History - The joint-vetch occurs in fresh to slightly brackish tidal river systems, within the intertidal zone where populations are flooded twice daily. It typically occurs at the outer fringe of marshes or shores; its presence in marsh interiors may be a result of nutrient deficiencies, ice scouring, or muskrat

herbivory. The sensitive joint-vetch is found in localities where plant diversity is high and annual species are prevalent. Bare to sparsely vegetated substrates appear to be a habitat feature of critical importance for establishment and growth of this species. Plants flower from July through September and into October in some years. Fruits are produced from July through late October, concurrent with flowering.

Conservation - The sensitive joint-vetch was federally listed as a threatened species on June 19, 1992. Threats to the species include sedimentation, competition from non-native plant species, dams, dredging, filling, recreational activities, shoreline stabilization, shoreline structures, road and bridge construction, commercial and residential development, water withdrawal projects, water quality degradation, agricultural practices, introduced pest species, mining, timber harvest, over-visitation, declines in muskrat populations, rise in sea level (this may also be a result of natural cycles), and collection. Natural threats are often identified with disturbances, such as wave and ice action associated with severe storm events, competition, herbivory, channel migration, sea level rise and natural sedimentation processes. Adequate habitat conservation for this species will only be achieved through on-site protection of marshes supporting plant populations when coupled with protection of the natural ecological processes responsible for creating and maintaining habitat for the sensitive joint-vetch.

What You Can Do To Help - Avoid the use of herbicides in or near waterways. If you are planning construction or stabilization activities along the shoreline in one of the counties indicated on the attached map, please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

References

- Davison, S.E. and L.P. Bruderle. 1984. Element stewardship abstract for *Aeschynomene virginica* - sensitive joint vetch. The Nature Conservancy. Arlington, Virginia.
- Hershner, C. and J.E. Perry. 1987. Population status of potentially threatened vascular plants from coastal plain tidal rivers in Virginia. College of William and Mary, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point, Virginia.
- Rouse, G.D. 1994. Sensitive joint-vetch life history and habitat study, 1993 Field Season, Mattaponi and Rappahannock River systems, Virginia. Schnabel Environmental Services. Richmond, Virginia.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1995. Sensitive joint-vetch (*Aeschynomene virginica*) recovery plan. Hadley, Massachusetts.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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6669 Short Lane
Gloucester, Virginia 23061
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<http://www.fws.gov>
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