



United States Department of the Interior

Fish and Wildlife Service

105 West Park Drive, Suite D
Athens, Georgia 30606

FILE

West Georgia Sub Office
P.O. Box 52560
Ft. Benning, Georgia 31995-2560

Coastal Sub Office
4270 Norwich Street
Brunswick, Georgia 31520

OCT 3 2005

Mr. Michael Abernathy
Georgia Power Environmental Laboratory
5131 Maner Road
Smyrna, Georgia 30080

Re: FWS Log # 05-0551

Dear Mr. Abernathy:

Thank you for your letter dated June 27, 2005, regarding your preparation for a license extension for Plant Vogtle in Burke County on the Savannah River near Waynesboro, Georgia. Plant Vogtle is a nuclear power, electric generating plant in the Southern Company system.

You requested information on both terrestrial and aquatic federally listed species of concern, threatened species, and endangered species in the vicinity of Plant Vogtle. We have included a list of federal and state listed species in Burke County, Georgia, with habitat type and threat statements included in that list.

The federally-listed shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) is under the jurisdiction of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Fisheries.

Although not listed, the robust redhorse (*Moxostoma robustum*) is of extreme interest. Conservation efforts are being pursued to prevent listing of this fish species via the interagency Robust Redhorse Conservation Committee. The Savannah River, Georgia/South Carolina is a verified location for natural populations of this fish. All resource concerns should take into consideration that the Savannah River is on the State's 303(d) list of impaired streams partially supporting their designated uses.

We appreciate your early communication and willingness to work with us to protect sensitive fish and all wildlife resources. We will provide further comments during your application process for either an early site permit or a pre-combined operating license. At that time we will provide comments and recommendations under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination

Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.). If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact our Coastal Georgia Sub-office supervisor, Strant Colwell, at (912) 265-9336.

Sincerely,

Strant J. Colwell

Sandra S. Tucker
Field Supervisor

for

Enclosure

cc: FWS, Athens, Georgia