

Noel Holcomb, Commissioner
Dan Forster, Director

Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division

2070 U.S. Highway 278, S.E., Social Circle, Georgia 30025
(770) 918-6400

December 26, 2007

RECEIVED

JAN -2 PM 2:45

RULES AND DIRECTIVES
BRANCH
USNRC

Rules, Directives and Editing Branch
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop T6-D59
Washington, DC 20555-0001

(21)
September 14, 2007
72 PR 52586

Re: Draft Environmental Impact Statement for an Early Site Permit (ESP) at the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant Site (NUREG-1872) Draft Report

Dear Sir or Madam:

We have reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for an Early Site Permit for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant Site. Because it will be located with the existing facility, we are not opposed to the site's proposed location.

Although dredging is not needed at this time, the DEIS indicates that the main channel of the Savannah River may need to be dredged in the future to maintain access between the barge slip and the navigation channel. According to surveys completed in 2006, this section of river contains a very important population of the Savannah Lilliput (*Toxolasma pullus*), a state threatened mussel species. We recommend that mussel surveys be carried immediately before dredging and that any state listed mussel species be relocated to suitable upstream habitat by a qualified mussel biologist.

We are concerned about water withdrawals during drought flows. The DEIS calculates the percent of the river's discharge withdrawn as a function of water released from Thurmond dam under three levels of drought severity. The consumptive water use under these scenarios appears to be small (<1.8% of the river's volume under drought level 3). Although the exact discharges from Thurmond Dam cannot be predicted for a level four drought (release = inflow to reservoir), it is possible to calculate the percentage of flow withdrawn under some hypothetical releases that might occur during a level four drought. These could be based upon actual inflow levels measured during the 2007 drought. Such calculations will help better gauge impacts to the flow regime, temperature profile, and water quality of the Savannah River.

Sincerely,

Dan Forster

DF:km

SUNSI Review Complete
Template = ADM-013

E-RIDS = ADM-03
Add = M. Notich (mdn)
C. Guerriero (cxg3)