



# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

176 Croghan Spur Road, Suite 200  
Charleston, South Carolina 29407



June 23, 2008

Mr. Gregory F. Suber, Branch Chief  
Environmental Review Branch  
Office of Federal and State Materials and  
Environmental Management Programs  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Re: Oconee Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation License Renewal, Oconee Nuclear  
Station, Oconee County, SC, FWS Log No. 42410-2008-SL-0475

Dear Mr. Suber:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has received the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) request seeking comments and relevant environmental information regarding a proposed license renewal of the Oconee Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation in Oconee County, SC. The existing facility is operated by the Duke Power Company, LLC, and provides for the storage of irradiated fuel assemblies from the Oconee Power Station, located onsite. Pursuant to requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, 1969, the NRC is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate potential issues and impacts the proposal may have to the surrounding environment.

The NRC is requesting identification of threatened and endangered (T&E) species or critical habitat in the action area. Please find attached a list of protected species known to occur or that may occur within Oconee County. As the project is located within a few miles of Pickens County, the Service believes it would be prudent to include this County's list due to the similarity of habitats. Please note that these lists include federally protected and state listed species. The Service recommends the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's survey efforts include all protected species within the two counties. No critical habitat for T&E species is found in either Oconee or Pickens County.

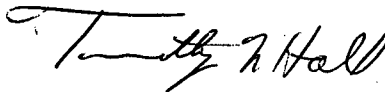
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has received the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) request seeking comments and relevant environmental information regarding a proposed license renewal of the Oconee Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation in Oconee County, SC. The existing facility is operated by the Duke Power Company, LLC, and provides for the storage of irradiated fuel assemblies from the Oconee Power Station, located onsite. Pursuant to requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, 1969, the NRC is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate potential issues and impacts the proposal may have to the surrounding environment.

Very truly yours,

TAKE PRIDE  
IN AMERICA

The Service appreciates the opportunity to provide you with a list of protected species that may occur within the project area. If you have any questions regarding the Service's comments, please do not hesitate to contact Mark Caldwell at (843) 727-4707 ext. 215.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy N. Hall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Timothy" being more prominent than the last name "Hall".

Timothy N. Hall  
Field Supervisor

TNH/MAC

**South Carolina Distribution Records of  
Endangered, Threatened, Candidate and Species of Concern  
March 2008**

E	Federally endangered
T	Federally threatened
P	Proposed in the Federal Register
CH	Critical Habitat
BGEPA	Federally protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
C	The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service has on file sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threat(s) to support proposals to list these species
S/A	Federally protected due to similarity of appearance to a listed species
SC	Federal Species of concern. These species are rare or limited in distribution but are not currently legally protected under the Endangered Species Act.
*	Contact the National Marine Fisheries Service for more information on this species

These lists should be used only as a guideline, not as the final authority. The lists include known occurrences and areas where the species has a high possibility of occurring. Records are updated continually and may be different from the following.

**OCONEE COUNTY**

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Occurrence</b>
Smooth coneflower	<i>Echinacea laevigata</i>	E	Known
Small whorled pogonia	<i>Isotria medeoloides</i>	T	Known
Persistent trillium	<i>Trillium persistens</i>	E	Known
Georgia aster	<i>Aster georgianus</i>	C	Known
Green salamander	<i>Aneides aeneus</i>	SC	Known
Hellbender	<i>Cryptobranchus alleganiensis</i>	SC	Known
Fort mountain sedge	<i>Carex amplisquama</i>	SC	Known
Manhart sedge	<i>Carex manhartii</i>	SC	Known
Cuthbert turtlehead	<i>Chelone cuthberti</i>	SC	Possible
Butternut	<i>Juglans cinerea</i>	SC	Possible
Prairie birdsfoot-trefoil	<i>Lotus purshianus</i> var. <i>helleri</i>	SC	Possible
Fraser loosestrife	<i>Lysimachia fraseri</i>	SC	Known
Sweet pinesap	<i>Monotropsis odorata</i>	SC	Known
Liverwort (no other name)	<i>Porella japonica</i> ssp. <i>Appalachium</i>	SC	Known

Sun-facing coneflower	<i>Rudbeckia heliopsidis</i>	SC	Known
Oconee-bells	<i>Shortia galacifolia</i>	SC	Known
Biltmore green briar	<i>Smilax biltmoreana</i>	SC	Known
Granite dome goldenrod	<i>Solidago simulans</i>	SC	Possible
Piedmont strawberry	<i>Waldsteinia lobata</i>	SC	Known
Cerulean warbler	<i>Dendroica cerulean</i>	SC	Possible
Black-throated green warbler	<i>Dendroica virens</i>	SC	Possible
American kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	SC	Possible
Swainson's warbler	<i>Limnothlypis swainsonii</i>	SC	Known
Red crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	SC	Known
Wren, Appalachian Bewick's	<i>Thryomanes bewickii altus</i>	SC	Known
Golden-winged warbler	<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>	SC	Known
Brook floater	<i>Alasmidonta varicosa</i>	SC	Known
Rafinesque's big-eared bat	<i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii</i>	SC	Known
Southern Appalachian woodrat	<i>Neotoma floridana haematorea</i>	SC	Known

## PICKENS COUNTY

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	Occurrence
Bog turtle	<i>Clemmys muhlenbergii</i>	T S/A	Known
Smooth coneflower	<i>Echinacea laevigata</i>	E	Known
Dwarf-flowered heartleaf	<i>Hexastylis naniflora</i>	T	Possible
Mountain sweet pitcher-plant	<i>Sarracenia rubra ssp. jonesii</i>	E	Known
Georgia aster	<i>Aster georgianus</i>	C	Known
Green salamander	<i>Aneides aeneus</i>	SC	Known
Alexander's rock aster	<i>Aster avitus</i>	SC	Known
Fort Mountain sedge	<i>Carex amplisquana</i>	SC	Known
Manhart sedge	<i>Carex manhartii</i>	SC	Known
Radford's sedge	<i>Carex radfordii</i>	SC	Known
Cuthbert turtlehead	<i>Chelone cuthberti</i>	SC	Possible
Tunbridge fern	<i>Hymenophyllum tunbridgense</i>	SC	Known
Butternut	<i>Juglans cinerea</i>	SC	Possible
Prairie birdsfoot-trefoil	<i>Lotus purshianus var. helleri</i>	SC	Possible
Fraser loosestrife	<i>Lysimachia fraseri</i>	SC	Known
Sweet pinesap	<i>Monotropsis odorata</i>	SC	Known

Piedmont ragwort	<i>Senecio millefolium</i>	SC	Known
Oconee-bells	<i>Shortia galacifolia</i>	SC	Known
Biltmore greenbrier	<i>Smilax biltmoreana</i>	SC	Known
Granite dome goldenrod	<i>Solidago simulans</i>	SC	Possible
Cerulean warbler	<i>Dendroica cerulea</i>	SC	Possible
Black-throated green warbler	<i>Dendroica virens</i>	SC	Possible
American kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	SC	Possible
Red crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	SC	Known
Wren, Appalachian Bewick's	<i>Thryomanes bewickii altus</i>	SC	Possible
Golden-winged warbler	<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>	SC	Known
Margaret's river cruiser	<i>Macromia margarita</i>	SC	Known
Carlson's polycentropis caddisfly	<i>Polycentropis carlsoni</i>	SC	Known
Rafinesque's big-eared bat	<i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii</i>	SC	Known
Southern appalachian woodrat	<i>Neotoma floridana haematoreia</i>	SC	Known