



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance  
Richard B. Russell Federal Building  
75 Spring Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303



ER 08/420  
9043.1

July 18, 2008

Chief, Rulemaking, Directives and Editing Branch  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Mail Stop T6-D59  
Washing, DC 20555-0001

4/25/08  
73 FR 22448  
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RULES AND DIRECTIVES  
BRANCH  
15550

RE: Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement, NUREG-1437, Supplement 34 for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants, Regarding Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2

The Department of the Interior has reviewed the referenced DEIS and make the following comments:

The document is well written and covers the concerns of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service addressed during phone calls and discussed during their review of environmental reports, environmental audits, and site visits including boat tours of the Savannah River at this location. These comments are submitted under provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, (16U.S.C. 661 *et seq.*).

The DGEIS adequately addresses aquatic and terrestrial species and the potential for their occurrence on the project site. It addresses specific potential for environmental impacts caused by transmission line herbicide use, bird impacts with cooling tower, fish and shellfish entrainment and impingement, aquatic gas supersaturation, chlorine discharge of metals, scouring, and temperature effects.

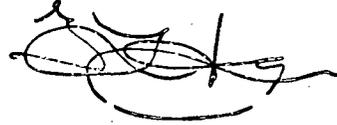
The DGEIS mentioned that a review of the quarterly NPDES Discharge Monitoring Reports since 2002 identified a total of six exceedances or possible exceedances, of water quality permit standards. Each event was immediately reported to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, investigated, and corrective actions, were taken. No impacts to natural resources were reported. Normal operation of Units 1 and 2 should have minimum impact on the resources under the purview of the Department of the Interior; however, the largest change for the area in the future is the possible construction and operation of two additional nuclear units at Vogtle, Units 3 and 4.

SONSI Review Complete  
Template = ADH-013

F-R-D-S = ADH-03  
Add = J.P. Lewis (JPL1)  
S. Hernandez (SHA)

If you have any questions concerning these comments, please contact Strant Colwell of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Georgia Ecological Services Office at 912-265-9336. You can reach me at 404-331-4524.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Hogue', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gregory Hogue  
Regional Environmental Officer

cc:  
FWS, R4  
FWS, Athens Field Office  
OEPC, Washington`