



# United States Department of the Interior

## Fish and Wildlife Service

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Brunswick, Georgia 31520

SEP 19 2008

Mr. Mark Notich, Project Manager  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)  
11555 Rockville Pike, M/S 010H2  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Re: USFWS Log # 08-FA-0473

Dear Mr. Notich:

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the Biological Assessment (BA) for U. S. Fish and Wildlife Species, Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP), Early Site Permit Application. The existing Vogtle Plant is located on the Savannah River near Waynesboro, Georgia in Burke County, approximately 42 km (26 miles) south of Augusta, Georgia. The purpose of this BA is "to provide information to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) concerning potential impacts of limited site-preparation activities at the VEGP site on threatened and endangered species and designated critical habitat pursuant to Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act." This BA addresses only limited site-preparation activities at the Vogtle site.

These comments, pertaining only to the Georgia portion of the Vogtle project, are provided in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703 *et seq.*).

Based on the information provided in this BA and all available information, we believe that species under the jurisdiction of the Service have been adequately addressed for limited site-preparation activities at the Vogtle site. However, obligations under section 7 of the Act must be reconsidered if: (1) new information reveals impacts of this identified action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner not previously considered; (2) this action is subsequently modified in a manner which was not previously considered in this assessment; or (3) a new species is listed or critical habitat determined that may be affected by the identified action.

Should you have further questions, please call our Coastal Georgia Sub-office supervisor, Strant Colwell, at (912) 265-9336.

Sincerely,

  
Sandra S. Tucker  
Field Supervisor