



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
176 Croghan Spur Road, Suite 200
Charleston, South Carolina 29407



January 22, 2009

1/05/09
74 FR 323

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Chief, Rules and Directives Branch
Division of Administrative Services
Office of Administration
Mail Stop TWB-05-B01M
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

RECEIVED

JAN 29 PM 2:47

RULES AND DIRECTIVES
BRANCH

Re: Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station, Units 2 & 3 Combined License Application,
Fairfield County, SC, FWS Log No. 42410-2009-SL-0109

Dear Sir/Madam:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has received Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) request to participate in the environmental scoping process and for a list of protected species within the area proposed to construct two new nuclear reactors at the Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station in Fairfield County, SC. The NRC is reviewing an application by South Carolina Electric and Gas (SCE&G) for a combined license for two new reactors, Units 2 and 3, adjacent to the Monticello Reservoir. Your request is being made as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934 to facilitate the development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) evaluating potential environmental issues and alternative considerations.

Your request is twofold, to solicit comments from the Service on potential environmental concerns and to obtain a list of threatened and endangered (T&E) species that may be present and affected by the project. This response from the Service will provide the list of T&E species requested, general scoping comments will be provided under separate letter within a timely manner.

Along with the two proposed reactor units, SCE&G identified a need to expand transmission line corridors outside of Fairfield County. The siting area identified includes nine additional counties located throughout the state; Calhoun, Chester, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton, Lancaster, Lexington, Orangeburg and Richland Counties. Please find attached a list of T&E species that are known to or may occur within the counties identified in your letter. This list includes species of state and Federal concern. Reconnaissance efforts for the reactor construction and

SONSI Review Complete
Template = ADM-013



F-RIDS = ADM-03

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transmission line siting must include a search for the federally listed T&E species. We also recommend survey efforts include the state listed species in its biological assessment. Please contact the S.C. Department of Natural Resources for further information on these species and their habitat requirements. Please note that several streams within Lancaster County are considered critical habitat for the Carolina heelsplitter, *Lasmigona decorata*. Gills Creek, Flat Creek and the Lynches River are considered essential for the conservation of the heelsplitter and are afforded protection under section 7 of Endangered Species Act.

The Service appreciates the opportunity to provide this information for the development of this project. 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,



Timothy N. Hall
Field Supervisor

TNH/MAC

cc: Mr. Mark Cantrell, USFWS, Asheville, NC

**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.

CALHOUN COUNTY

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	Occurrence
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	BGEPA	Known
Red-cockaded woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	E	Possible
Shortnose sturgeon	<i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i> *	E	Known
Southern Dusky Salamander	<i>Desmognathus auriculatus</i>	SC	Possible
Least trillium	<i>Trillium pusillum</i> var. <i>pusillum</i>	SC	Known
Bachman's sparrow	<i>Aimophila aestivalis</i>	SC	Possible
Henslow's sparrow	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	SC	Known
American kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	SC	Possible
Loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	SC	Possible
Painted bunting	<i>Passerina ciris ciris</i>	SC	Possible
Blueback herring	<i>Alosa aestivalis</i> *	SC	Known

CHESTER COUNTY

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	Occurrence
Carolina heelsplitter	<i>Lasmigona decorata</i>	E	Known
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	BGEPA	Known
Red-cockaded woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	E	Possible
Georgia aster	<i>Aster georgianus</i>	C	Known
Dwarf aster	<i>Aster mirabilis</i>	SC	Possible
Shoals spider-lily	<i>Hymenocallis coronaria</i>	SC	Known
Prairie birdsfoot-trefoil	<i>Lotus purshianus</i> var. <i>helleri</i>	SC	Possible
Bachman's sparrow	<i>Aimophila aestivalis</i>	SC	Possible
Henslow's sparrow	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	SC	Known
American kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	SC	Possible
Loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	SC	Possible

COLLETON COUNTY

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	Occurrence
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	BGEPA	Known
Wood stork	<i>Mycteria Americana</i>	E	Known
Red-cockaded woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	E	Known
Piping plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	T, CH	Known
Kemp's ridley sea turtle	<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i> *	E	Known
Leatherback sea turtle	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> *	E	Known
Loggerhead sea turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	T	Known
Green sea turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i> *	T	Known
Shortnose sturgeon	<i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i> *	E	Known
Pondberry	<i>Lindera melissifolia</i>	E	Possible
Canby's dropwort	<i>Oxypolis canbyi</i>	E	Known
Southern Dusky Salamander	<i>Desmognathus auriculatus</i>	SC	Possible
Angiosperm (no common name)	<i>Elytraria caroliniensis</i>	SC	Known
Godfrey's privet	<i>Forestiera godfreyi</i>	SC	Known
Pondspice	<i>Litsea aestivalis</i>	SC	Known
Boykin's lobelia	<i>Lobelia boykinii</i>	SC	Known
Carolina bird-in-a-nest	<i>Macbridea caroliniana</i>	SC	Known
Crested fringed orchid	<i>Pteroglossaspis ecristata</i>	SC	Known
Bachman's sparrow	<i>Aimophila aestivalis</i>	SC	Possible

Kirtland's Warbler	<i>Dendroica kirtlandii</i>	E	
Henslow's sparrow	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	SC	Possible
Red knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	C	Possible
Black-throated green warbler	<i>Dendroica virens</i>	SC	Possible
Swallow-tailed kite	<i>Elanoides forficatus forficatus</i>	SC	Known
American kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	SC	Possible
American oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>	SC	Known
Loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	SC	Possible
Black rail	<i>Laterallus jamaicensis</i>	SC	Possible
Painted bunting	<i>Passerina ciris ciris</i>	SC	Possible
Gull-billed tern	<i>Sterna nilotica</i>	SC	Known
Bluebarred pygmy sunfish	<i>Elassoma okatie</i>	SC	Known
Southern hognose snake	<i>Heterodon simus</i>	SC	Possible
Island glass lizard	<i>Ophisaurus compressus</i>	SC	Known
Rafinesque's big-eared bat	<i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii</i>	SC	Known
Blueback herring	<i>Alosa aestivalis*</i>	SC	Known

DORCHESTER COUNTY

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	Occurrence
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	BGEPA	Known
Wood stork	<i>Mycteria Americana</i>	E	Possible
Red-cockaded woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	E	Known
Shortnose sturgeon	<i>Acipenser brevirostrum*</i>	E	Possible
Pondberry	<i>Lindera melissifolia</i>	E	Known
Canby's dropwort	<i>Oxypolis canbyi</i>	E	Possible
Bog asphodel	<i>Nartheceum americanum</i>	C	Known
Southern Dusky Salamander	<i>Desmognathus auriculatus</i>	SC	Possible
Gopher frog	<i>Rana capito</i>	SC	Known
Chapman's sedge	<i>Carex chapmanii</i>	SC	Known
Angiosperm (no common name)	<i>Elytraria caroliniensis</i>	SC	Known
Savannah or Piedmont cowbane	<i>Oxypolis ternate</i>	SC	Known
Pineland plantain	<i>Plantago sparsiflora</i>	SC	Known

False coco	<i>Pteroglossaspis ecristata</i>	SC	Known
Least trillium	<i>Trillium pusillum</i> var. <i>pusillum</i>	SC	Known
Bachman's sparrow	<i>Aimophila aestivalis</i>	SC	Possible
Henslow's sparrow	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	SC	Known
Black-throated green warbler	<i>Dendroica virens</i>	SC	Possible
Swallow-tailed kite	<i>Elanoides forficatus</i> <i>forficatus</i>	SC	Known
American kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	SC	Possible
Loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	SC	Possible
Swainson's warbler	<i>Limnothlypis swainsonii</i>	SC	Known
Painted bunting	<i>Passerina ciris ciris</i>	SC	Possible
Rafinesque's big-eared bat	<i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii</i>	SC	Known
Southeastern myotis	<i>Myotis austroriparius</i>	SC	Known
Gopher tortoise	<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	SC	Known
Southern hognose snake	<i>Heterodon simus</i>	SC	Possible
Blueback herring	<i>Alosa aestivalis</i> *	SC	Known

FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	Occurrence
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	BGEPA	Known
Carolina heelsplitter	<i>Lasmigona decorate</i>	E	Possible
Georgia aster	<i>Aster georgianus</i>	C	Known
Prairie birdsfoot-trefoil	<i>Lotus purshianus</i> var. <i>helleri</i>	SC	Possible
Bachman's sparrow	<i>Aimophila aestivalis</i>	SC	Possible
Henslow's sparrow	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	SC	Known
American kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	SC	Possible
Loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	SC	Possible
Carolina darter	<i>Etheostoma collis</i>	SC	Known

HAMPTON COUNTY

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	Occurrence
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	BGEPA	Known
Red-cockaded woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	E	Known
Wood stork	<i>Mycteria Americana</i>	E	Known
Shortnose sturgeon	<i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i> *	E	Known

Canby's dropwort	<i>Oxypolis canbyi</i>	E	Known
Southern Dusky Salamander	<i>Desmognathus auriculatus</i>	SC	Possible
Gopher frog	<i>Rana capito</i>	SC	Known
Chapman's sedge	<i>Carex chapmanii</i>	SC	Known
Angiosperm (no common name)	<i>Elytraria caroliniensis</i>	SC	Known
Boykin's lobelia	<i>Lobelia boykinii</i>	SC	Known
Carolina bogmint	<i>Macbridea caroliniana</i>	SC	Known
False coco	<i>Pteroglossaspis ecristata</i>	SC	Known
Bachman's sparrow	<i>Aimophia aestivalis</i>	SC	Known
Henslow's sparrow	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	SC	Known
Swallow-tailed kite	<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>	SC	Known
American kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	SC	Possible
Loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	SC	Possible
Painted bunting	<i>Passerina ciris ciris</i>	SC	Possible
Bluebarred pygmy sunfish	<i>Elassoma okatie</i>	SC	Known
Rafinesque's big-eared bat	<i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii</i>	SC	Known
Southern hognose snake	<i>Heterodon simus</i>	SC	Possible
Northern pine snake	<i>Pituophis melanoleucus melanoleucus</i>	SC	Known
Blueback herring	<i>Alosa aestivalis*</i>	SC	Known

LANCASTER COUNTY

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	Occurrence
Carolina heelsplitter	<i>Lasmigona decorata</i>	E, CH	Known
Little amphianthus	<i>Amphianthus pusillus</i>	T	Known
Smooth coneflower	<i>Echinacea laevigata</i>	E	Known
Schweinitz's sunflower	<i>Helianthus schweinitzii</i>	E	Known
Black-spored quillwort	<i>Isoetes melanospora</i>	E	Known
Dwarf aster	<i>Aster mirabilis</i>	SC	Possible
Sandhills milkvetch	<i>Astragalus michauxii</i>	SC	Known
Shoals spider-lily	<i>Hymenocallis coronaria</i>	SC	Known
Prairie birdsfoot-trefoil	<i>Lotus purshianus</i> var. <i>helleri</i>	SC	Possible
Bachman's sparrow	<i>Aimophia aestivalis</i>	SC	Known
Henslow's sparrow	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	SC	Known
Loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	SC	Possible

Brook floater	<i>Alasmidonta varicosa</i>	SC	Known
Blueback herring	<i>Alosa aestivalis</i> *	SC	Known

LEXINGTON COUNTY

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	Occurrence
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	BGEPA	Known
Carolina heelsplitter	<i>Lasmigona decorata</i>	E	Possible
Red-cockaded woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	E	Known
Shortnose sturgeon	<i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i> *	E	Possible
Smooth coneflower	<i>Echinacea laevigata</i>	E	Possible
Southern Dusky Salamander	<i>Desmognathus auriculatus</i>	SC	Possible
Dwarf aster	<i>Aster mirabilis</i>	SC	Possible
Shoal's spider-lily	<i>Hymenocallis coronaria</i>	SC	Known
Prairie birdsfoot-trefoil	<i>Lotus purshianus</i> var. <i>helleri</i>	SC	Possible
Piedmont cowbane	<i>Oxypolis ternate</i>	SC	Known
Wire-leaved dropseed	<i>Sporobolus teretifolius</i>	SC	Known
Pickering's morning- glory	<i>Stylisma pickeringii</i> var. <i>pickeringii</i>	SC	Known
Rayner's blueberry	<i>Vaccinium crassifolium</i> ssp <i>sempervirens</i>	SC	Known
Bachman's sparrow	<i>Aimophia aestivalis</i>	SC	Known
Henslow's sparrow	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	SC	Known
American kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	SC	Possible
Loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	SC	Possible
Painted bunting	<i>Passerina ciris ciris</i>	SC	Possible
Southern hognose snake	<i>Heterodon simus</i>	SC	Possible
Blueback herring	<i>Alosa aestivalis</i> *	SC	Known

ORANGEBURG COUNTY

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	Occurrence
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T	Known
Red-cockaded woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	E	Known
Flatwoods salamander	<i>Ambystoma cingulatum</i>	T	Known
Shortnose sturgeon	<i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i> *	E	Known
Canby's dropwort	<i>Oxypolis canbyi</i>	E	Known
Southern Dusky	<i>Desmognathus auriculatus</i>	SC	Possible

Salamander			
Gopher frog	<i>Rana capito</i>	SC	Known
Incised groovebur	<i>Agrimonia incise</i>	SC	Known
Wagner's spleenwort	<i>Asplenium heteroresiliens</i>	SC	Known
Pondspice	<i>Litsea aestivalis</i>	SC	Known
Boykin's lobelia	<i>Lobelia boykinii</i>	SC	Known
Carolina bogmint	<i>Macbridea caroliniana</i>	SC	Known
Awnead meadowbeauty	<i>Rhexia aristosa</i>	SC	Known
Bachman's sparrow	<i>Aimophia aestivalis</i>	SC	Known
Henslow's sparrow	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	SC	Known
American kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	SC	Possible
Loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	SC	Possible
Painted bunting	<i>Passerina ciris ciris</i>	SC	Possible
Buff-breasted sandpiper	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>	SC	Possible
Southeastern myotis	<i>Myotis austroriparius</i>	SC	Known
Florida pine snake	<i>Pituophis melanoleucus mugitus</i>	SC	Known
Rafinesque's big-eared bat	<i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii</i>	SC	Known
Blueback herring	<i>Alosa aestivalis*</i>	SC	Known

RICHLAND COUNTY

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	Occurrence
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	BGEPA	Known
Wood stork	<i>Mycteria Americana</i>	E	Possible
Red-cockaded woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	E	Known
Shortnose sturgeon	<i>Acipenser brevirostrum*</i>	E	Known
Smooth coneflower	<i>Echinacea laevigata</i>	E	Known
Rough-leaved loosestrife	<i>Lysimachia asperulaefolia</i>	E	Known
Canby's dropwort	<i>Oxypolis canbyi</i>	E	Known
Carolina heelsplitter	<i>Lasmigona decorate</i>	E	Possible
Georgia aster	<i>Aster georgianus</i>	C	Known
Southern Dusky Salamander	<i>Desmognathus auriculatus</i>	SC	Possible
Sandhills milk-vetch	<i>Astragalus michauxii</i>	SC	Known
Purple balduina	<i>Balduina atropurpurea</i>	SC	Known
Shoals spider-lily	<i>Hymenocallis coronaria</i>	SC	Known
Creeping St. John's wort	<i>Hypericum adpressum</i>	SC	Known

Bog spicebush	<i>Lindera subcoriacea</i>	SC	Known
Prairie birdsfoot-trefoil	<i>Lotus purshianus</i> var. <i>helleri</i>	SC	Possible
Carolina bogmint	<i>Macbridea caroliniana</i>	SC	Known
Algae-like pondweed	<i>Potamogeton confervoides</i>	SC	known
False coco	<i>Pteroglossaspis ecristata</i>	SC	Known
Awned meadowbeauty	<i>Rhexia aristosa</i>	SC	Known
Reclined meadow-rue	<i>Thalictrum subrotundum</i>	SC	Known
White false-asphodel	<i>Tofieldia glabra</i>	SC	Known
Rayner's blueberry	<i>Vaccinium crassifolium</i> ssp. <i>Empervirens</i>	SC	Known
Bachman's sparrow	<i>Aimophia aestivalis</i>	SC	Known
Henslow's sparrow	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	SC	Known
American kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	SC	Known
Loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	SC	Known
Painted bunting	<i>Passerina ciris ciris</i>	SC	Possible
Carolina darter	<i>Etheostoma collis</i>	SC	Known
Rafinesque's big-eared bat	<i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii</i>	SC	Known
Southern hognose snake	<i>Heterodon simus</i>	SC	Known
Blueback herring	<i>Alosa aestivalis</i> *	SC	Known