



United States Department of the Interior

U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

7915 BAYMEADOWS WAY, SUITE 200
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32256-7517

IN REPLY REFER TO:

FWS Log No: 41910-09-SL-0131

February 9, 2009

Mr. Gregory P. Hatchett, Acting Branch Chief
Environmental Projects Branch 2
Division of Site and Environmental Reviews
Office of New Reactors
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Hatchett:

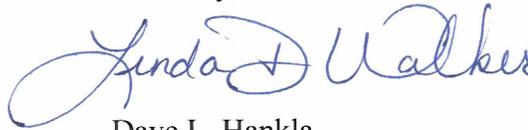
We received your letter of November 5, 2008 concerning an application (Docket No's: 52-029 and 52-030) submitted by Progress Energy Florida, Inc. for a combined license for construction and operation of two new nuclear power reactors at its Levy Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2 in Levy County, Florida. Your letter requested scoping comments during the scoping comment period and information on Federally-listed species and critical habitat that may be in the vicinity of the project site, the associated transmission line rights-of-way, and the alternative sites.

A member of my staff, Heath Rauschenberger, attended the site audit and provided contact information and informal comments during the scoping comment period in December, 2008. He will be reviewing the draft EIS and providing FWCA comments.

Lists of Federally-listed species by county for north Florida is available on our website at www.fws.gov/northflorida. Polk County is located within the Service's South Florida Field Office whose website is www.fws.gov/verobeach. Species accounts for all Federally-listed species are available on <http://endangered.fws.gov>. It will be necessary for the applicant to determine if habitat for Federally-listed species occurs within the project vicinity. If so, surveys for the appropriate species will likely be necessary to know the potential for impact to these species. If survey protocol cannot be found in the recovery plans for the species or cannot be found on the websites provided, then please contact us. Maps showing known populations of the threatened Florida scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) are available from our scrub-jay recovery lead, Mike Jennings. The endangered wood stork (*Mycteria americana*) nesting colony/core foraging area maps are available on our north Florida website.

As early as January, 2008, we were contacted by individuals working on this project requesting information on Federally-listed species and we have recently been contacted by other individuals and have directed them to the sources of information provided herein. We would appreciate you providing us a single point of contact for the Endangered Species Act (ESA) portion of the project to avoid duplication of effort for the future. Linda S. Smith, of my staff, is available if specific guidance is needed regarding endangered or threatened species. She will also be conducting section 7 consultation under the ESA when sufficient project details and species information is provided, including habitat survey and/or species survey results. We understand the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers is a cooperating agency for preparation of the EIS. Please tell us what Federal agency or non-Federal designee will be conducting the section 7 consultation. Ms. Smith's contact information is (904)868-4044 or linda_s_smith@fws.gov.

Sincerely,



Dave L. Hankla
Field Supervisor

