

APPENDIX A

AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE

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**Southern Nuclear
Operating Company, Inc.**
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201-1295

Tel 205.992.5000



March 1, 2006

AR-06-0429

Ms. Sandy Tucker
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Westpark Center Suite D
105 Westpark Drive
Athens, GA 30606

Re: Vogtle Electric Generating Plant – Early Site Permit
Review of Threatened and Endangered Species and Important Habitats

Dear Ms. Tucker:

Southern Nuclear Operating Company is preparing an application to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for an Early Site Permit for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) located in Burke County, Georgia. The application will be based on construction of two Westinghouse AP-1000 reactors and is scheduled for submittal to the NRC by August 15, 2006. The Early Site Permit, when granted, approves the site as suitable for construction of new nuclear units, but does not constitute a commitment on the part of Southern Company to construct new units on the site. The Early Site Permit can be granted for a period of up to twenty years.

As part of the Early Site Permit application process, the NRC requires license applicants to “assess the impact of the proposed action on threatened or endangered species in accordance with the Endangered Species Act” (10 CFR 51.45). The NRC will contact your organization during the application review of the Environmental Report. By contacting you early in the application process, SNC hopes to identify any issues that need to be addressed or any information your office may need to expedite the NRC review.

VEGP lies on the west bank of the Savannah River in the eastern sector of Burke County, Georgia, at River Mile 151, approximately 23 river miles upstream from the intersection of the Savannah River and U.S. Highway 301. The VEGP site proper encompasses approximately 3169 acres, roughly one-half of which (1778 acres) are undeveloped (old fields, forests, and wetlands) and managed as a wildlife preserve. The Vogtle site is served by approximately 340 miles of transmission lines divided among six (6) corridors. One of the corridors, Vogtle-Wilson, connects Vogtle to the adjacent combustion turbine plant (Plant Wilson) and is contained entirely on the site property. The other corridors consist of three 230 KV lines: Vogtle-Savannah River Site; Vogtle-Goshen; and Vogtle-Augusta Newsprint (a nine mile loop off of the Vogtle-Goshen line), and two 500 KV lines: Vogtle-Thalmann, and Vogtle-Scherer.

Ms. Sandy Tucker – Page 2

Southern Nuclear has recently completed a Threatened and Endangered Species Study which evaluates potential impacts to threatened and endangered species for the Vogtle site and associated transmission lines. The report is focused on terrestrial and aquatic species that have the potential to occur on the Vogtle site and associated transmission line corridors. The report documents the occurrence of one federally listed species, the wood stork, on two of the existing Vogtle transmission corridors (Vogtle-Scherer and Vogtle-Thalmann). The state threatened gopher tortoise, as well as the spotted turtle, an unusual species in Georgia, were observed on the Vogtle-Thalmann corridor. Two state listed plant species, pond spice and the hooded pitcher plant, were also found on this corridor. The state threatened bay star vine was the only listed species observed on the Vogtle plant site. The presence of the federal and state listed species noted in the report is known and the potential impacts are well understood. There are controls in place to ensure activities such as mowing, clearing, and maintenance conducted on transmission lines do not significantly impact these species. Similar controls are in place on the Vogtle plant site. Based on the listed species inventory documented in the report, no significant impact associated with construction and operation of the proposed two new units at Vogtle should occur. The final report was issued January 16, 2006, and is provided as Attachment 1.

There are two aquatic species known to inhabit the Savannah River; the federally endangered shortnose sturgeon and the robust redhorse, a Georgia Species of Interest. The operation of the existing two units at VEGP does not significantly impact these species. No significant impact to these species is anticipated from construction and operation of the proposed two additional units at the Vogtle site.

This report is provided in advance to allow ample time for your review and to allow time for resolution of questions and comments prior to the August 2006 submittal date. Your response to this correspondence is respectfully requested by June 1, 2006 to support resolution of threatened and endangered species issues prior to submittal of the Environmental Report. We will include a copy of this letter and your response in the Early Site Permit application submittal to the NRC.

Please call me at (205) 992-5807 or Ms. Amy Greene at (205) 992-5805 if you have questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Original signed by T. C. Moorer

T. C. Moorer
Project Manager- Environmental Support

Attachment

cc: C. R. Pierce (w/o attachment)
J. M. Godfrey (w/o attachment)
File AR.01.01.06
Document Control R-Type: AR.01.01

Ms. Sandy Tucker – Page 3

bc: (Without attachment)
L. B. Long
B. C. Terry
R. D. Hill
J. T. Davis
A. B. Greene
M. C. Nichols
R. D. Just

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**Southern Nuclear
Operating Company, Inc.**
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201-1295

Tel 205.992.5000



August 2, 2006

AR-06-1583

Mr. David Bernhart
Chief, Protected Species Branch
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue, South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

Re: Vogtle Electric Generating Plant – Early Site Permit
Request for Information on Threatened or Endangered Species

Dear Mr. Bernhart:

Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) is preparing an application to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for an Early Site Permit for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) located in Burke County, Georgia. The application will be based on construction of two Westinghouse AP-1000 reactors and is scheduled for submittal to the NRC by August 15, 2006. The Early Site Permit, when granted, approves the site as suitable for construction of new nuclear units, but does not constitute a commitment on the part of Southern Company to construct new units on the site. The Early Site Permit can be granted for a period of up to twenty years.

As part of the Early Site Permit application process, the NRC requires license applicants to assess the impact of the proposed action on threatened or endangered species in accordance with the Endangered Species Act. The NRC will contact your organization during the application review of the VEGP Environmental Report. By contacting you early in the application process, we hope to identify any issues that need to be addressed or any information your office may need to expedite the NRC review.

VEGP lies on the west bank of the Savannah River in the eastern sector of Burke County, Georgia, at River Mile 151, approximately 30 river miles upstream from the intersection of the Savannah River and U.S. Highway 301. The VEGP site encompasses approximately 3,169 acres, roughly one-half of which (1,778 acres) are undeveloped (old fields, forests, and wetlands) and managed as a wildlife preserve. The Vogtle site is served by the approximately 340 miles of transmission lines divided among six (6) corridors. One of the corridors, Vogtle-Wilson, connects Vogtle to the adjacent combustion turbine plant, Plant Wilson, and is contained entirely on the site property. The other corridors consist of three 230 kV lines: Vogtle-Savannah River Site; Vogtle-Goshen; and Vogtle-Augusta Newsprint (a nine-mile loop off of the Vogtle-Goshen line), and two 500 kV lines: Vogtle-Thalman and Vogtle-Scherer.

There are two sensitive aquatic species known to inhabit the Savannah River: the federally endangered shortnose sturgeon and the robust redhorse, a Georgia Species of Interest. The

AR-06-1583

Mr. David Bernhart – Page 2

operation of the existing two units at VEGP does not significantly impact these species. No significant impact to these species is anticipated from construction and operation of the proposed two additional units at the Vogtle site.

This correspondence is provided in advance to support agency resource planning and to allow time for resolution of questions and comments prior to the August 2006 application submittal date. Southern Nuclear will include a copy of this letter in the Early Site Permit application submittal to the NRC.

Please call me at (205) 992-5807 or Ms. Amy Aughtman at (205) 992-5805 if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Original signed by T. C. Moorer

T. C. Moorer
Project Manager – Environmental Support

TCM/AGA

Enclosure: Figures 2.1-1 and 2.1-3

cc: C. R. Pierce (w/o attachment)
J. M. Godfrey (w/o attachment)
File AR.01.01.06
Document Control – R-Type AR.01

AR-06-1583
Mr. David Bernhart – Page 3

bc: (w/ attachment)
 R. D. Just
 M. C. Nichols
 A. G. Aughtman

(w/o attachment)
 J. A. Miller
 D. M. Lloyd
 J. T. Davis

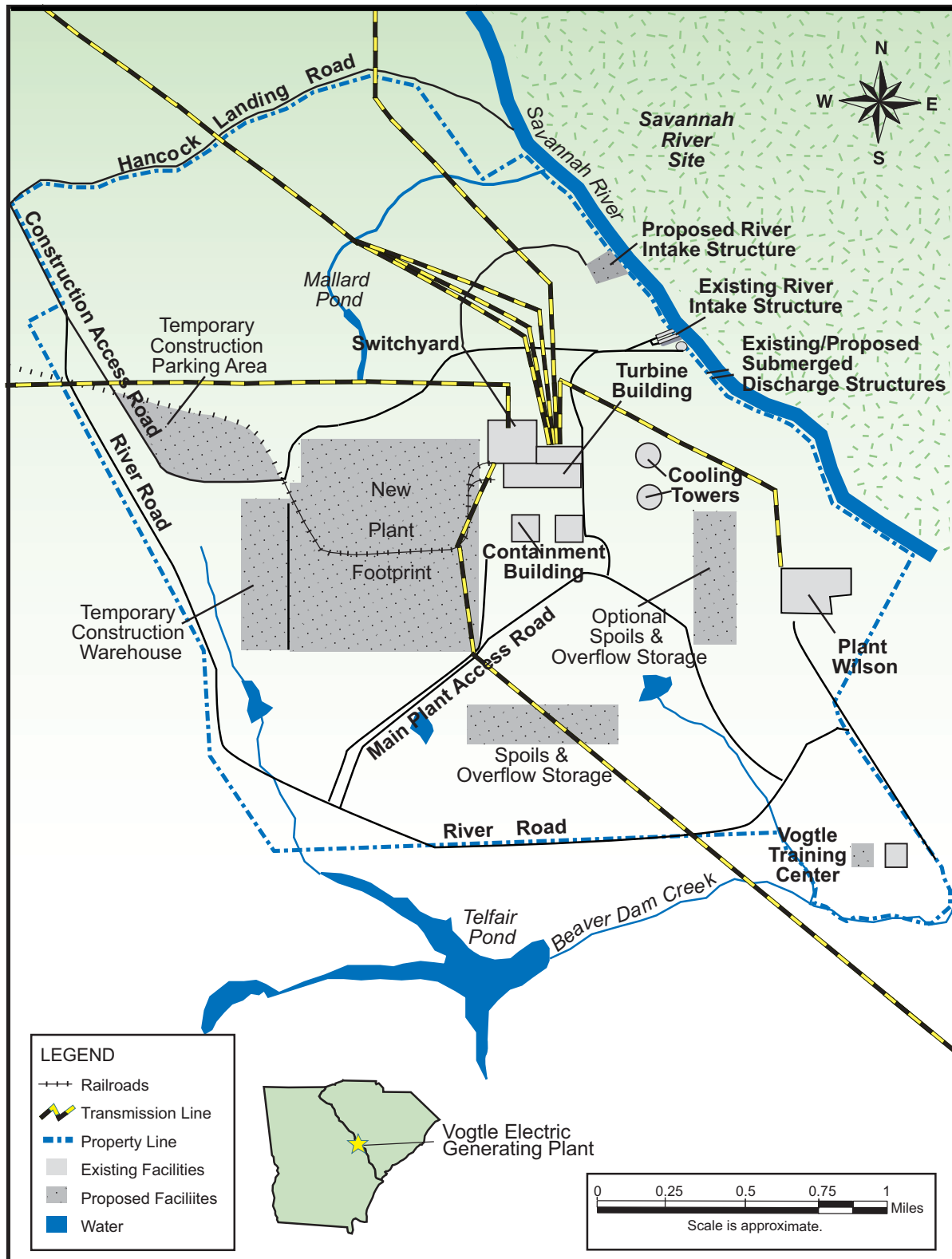


Figure 2.1-1 VEGP Site and Proposed New Plant Footprint

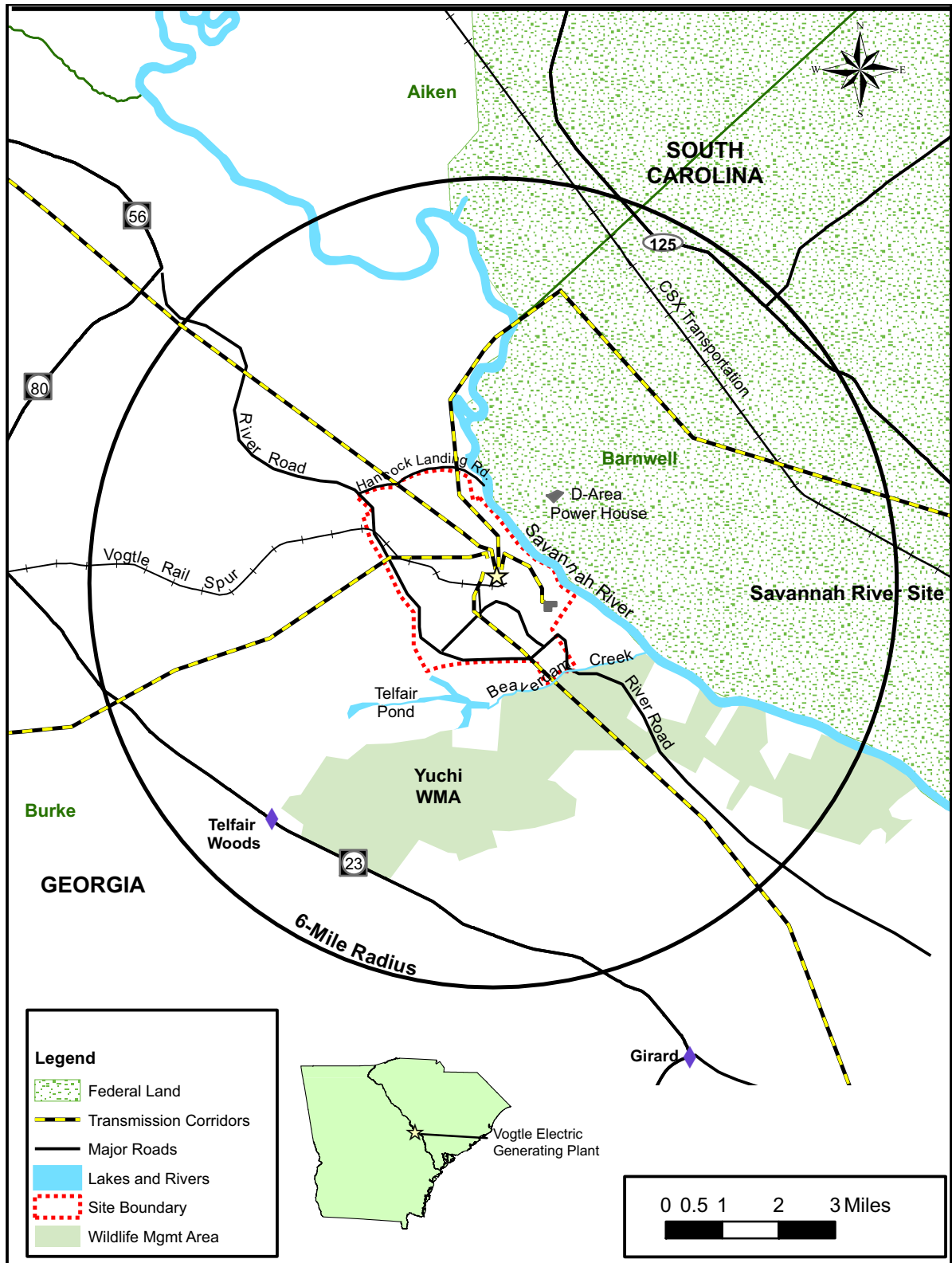


Figure 2.1.3 6-Mile Vicinity

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**Southern Nuclear
Operating Company, Inc.**
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201-1295

Tel 205.992.5000



March 1, 2006

AR-06-0431

Mr. Mike Harris
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Non-game Program
2117 U.S. Highway 278 SE
Social Circle, GA 30279

Re: Vogtle Electric Generating Plant – Early Site Permit
Review of Threatened and Endangered Species and Important Habitats

Dear Mr. Harris:

Southern Nuclear Operating Company is preparing an application to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for an Early Site Permit for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) located in Burke County, Georgia. The application will be based on construction of two Westinghouse AP-1000 reactors and is scheduled for submittal to the NRC by August 15, 2006. The Early Site Permit, when granted, approves the site for construction of new nuclear units, but does not constitute a commitment on the part of Southern Company to construct new units on the site. The Early Site Permit authorizes the site for a period of twenty years.

As part of the Early Site Permit application process, the NRC requires license applicants to “assess the impact of the proposed action on threatened or endangered species in accordance with the Endangered Species Act” (10 CFR 51.45). The NRC will contact your organization during the application review of the Environmental Report. By contacting you early in the application process, we hope to identify any issues that need to be addressed or any information your office may need to expedite the NRC review.

VEGP lies on the west bank of the Savannah River in the eastern sector of Burke County, Georgia, at River Mile 151, approximately 23 river miles upstream from the intersection of the Savannah River and U.S. Highway 301. The VEGP site proper encompasses approximately 3169 acres, roughly one-half of which (1778 acres) are undeveloped (old fields, forests, and wetlands) and managed as a wildlife preserve. The Vogtle site is served by approximately 340 miles of transmission lines divided among six (6) corridors. One of the corridors, Vogtle-Wilson, connects Vogtle to the adjacent combustion turbine plant (Plant Wilson) and is contained entirely on the site property. The other corridors consist of three 230 KV lines: Vogtle -Savannah River Site; Vogtle-Goshen; and Vogtle-Augusta Newsprint (a nine mile loop off of the Vogtle-Goshen line), and two 500 KV lines: Vogtle-Thalman, and Vogtle-Scherer.

Mr. Mike Harris – Page 2

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There are two aquatic species known to inhabit the Savannah River; the federally endangered shortnose sturgeon and the robust redhorse, a Georgia Species of Interest. The operation of the existing two units at VEGP does not significantly impact these species. No significant impact to these species is anticipated from construction and operation of the proposed two additional units at the Vogtle site.

Your response to this correspondence is respectfully requested by June 1, 2006 to support resolution of threatened and endangered species issues prior to submittal of the Environmental Report. We will include a copy of this letter and your response in the Early Site Permit application submittal to the NRC

Please call me at (205) 992-5807 or Ms. Amy Greene at (205) 992-5805 if you have questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Original signed by T. C. Moorer

T. C. Moorer
Project Manager- Environmental Support

Attachment

cc: C. R. Pierce (w/o attachment)
J. M. Godfrey (w/o attachment)
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Mr. Mike Harris – Page 3

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M. C. Nichols
R. D. Just

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**Southern Nuclear
Operating Company, Inc.**
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201-1295

Tel 205.992.5000



August 2, 2006

AR-06-1728

Linda MacGregor
Chief, Watershed Protection Branch
Environmental Protection Division
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
4220 International Parkway, Suite 101
Atlanta, GA 30354

Re: Vogtle Electric Generating Plant – Early Site Permit
Request for Information on Thermophilic Organisms in the Savannah River

Dear Ms. MacGregor:

Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) is preparing an application to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for an Early Site Permit for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) located in Burke County, Georgia. The application will be based on construction of two Westinghouse AP-1000 reactors and is scheduled for submittal to the NRC by August 15, 2006. The Early Site Permit, when granted, approves the site as suitable for construction of new nuclear units, but does not constitute a commitment on the part of Southern Company to construct new units on the site. The Early Site Permit can be granted for a period of up to twenty years.

As part of the Early Site Permit application process, NRC requires applicants to “assess the impact of the proposed action on public health from thermophilic organisms in the affected water” (10 CFR 51.53). NRC guidance and supporting documentation focus on organisms such as *Naegleria fowleri*, which has been known to produce public health concerns when present in high concentrations.

VEGP lies on the west bank of the Savannah River in the eastern sector of Burke County, Georgia, at River Mile 151, approximately 30 river miles upstream from the intersection of the Savannah River and U.S. Highway 301. The VEGP site encompasses approximately 3,169 acres, roughly one-half of which (1,778 acres) are undeveloped (old fields, forests, and wetlands) and managed as a wildlife preserve. The discharge for VEGP Units 1 and 2 enters the Savannah River via a submerged single port discharge pipe. Discharge limits and monitoring requirements are set forth in the VEGP National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, GA0026786. The discharge structure for the proposed Units 3 and 4 will be of similar design and will enter the river slightly downstream of the existing submerged discharge structure.

AR-06-1728

Ms. Linda MacGregor – Page 2

The VEGP existing discharge temperatures and predicted new discharge temperatures are significantly less than those known to be optimal for growth and survival of thermophilic organisms. SNC is aware of no information that suggests any concern about thermophilic organism concentrations in the river. SNC is consulting with your office for any information that may be available on any potential health effects associated with thermophylic organisms in discharges from steam electric generating facilities in the southeast. A letter confirming receipt of this correspondence and providing any concerns you may have is respectfully requested. The NRC will likely contact your office during the review of the VEGP Early Site Permit application regarding this matter.

This correspondence is provided to allow ample time for your review of this issue prior to being contacted by the NRC. Southern Nuclear will include a copy of this letter in the Early Site Permit application submittal to the NRC.

Please call me at (205) 992-5807 or Ms. Amy Aughtman at (205) 992-5805 if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Original signed by T. C. Moorer

T. C. Moorer
Project Manager – Environmental Support

TCM/AGA

Enclosure: Figures 2.1-1 and 2.1-3

cc: C. R. Pierce (w/o attachment)
J. M. Godfrey (w/o attachment)
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AR-06-1728
Ms. Linda MacGregor – Page 3

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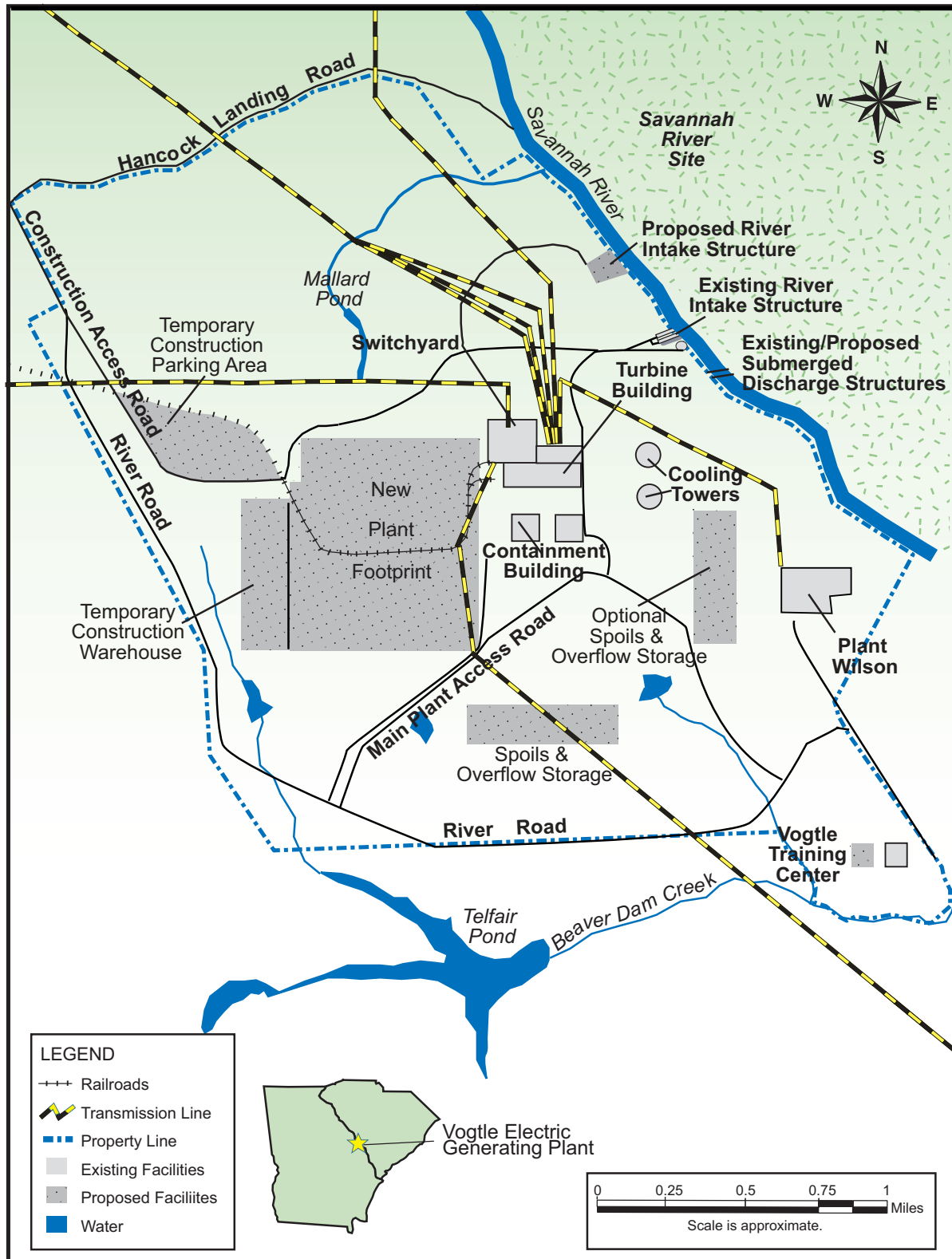


Figure 2.1-1 VEGP Site and Proposed New Plant Footprint

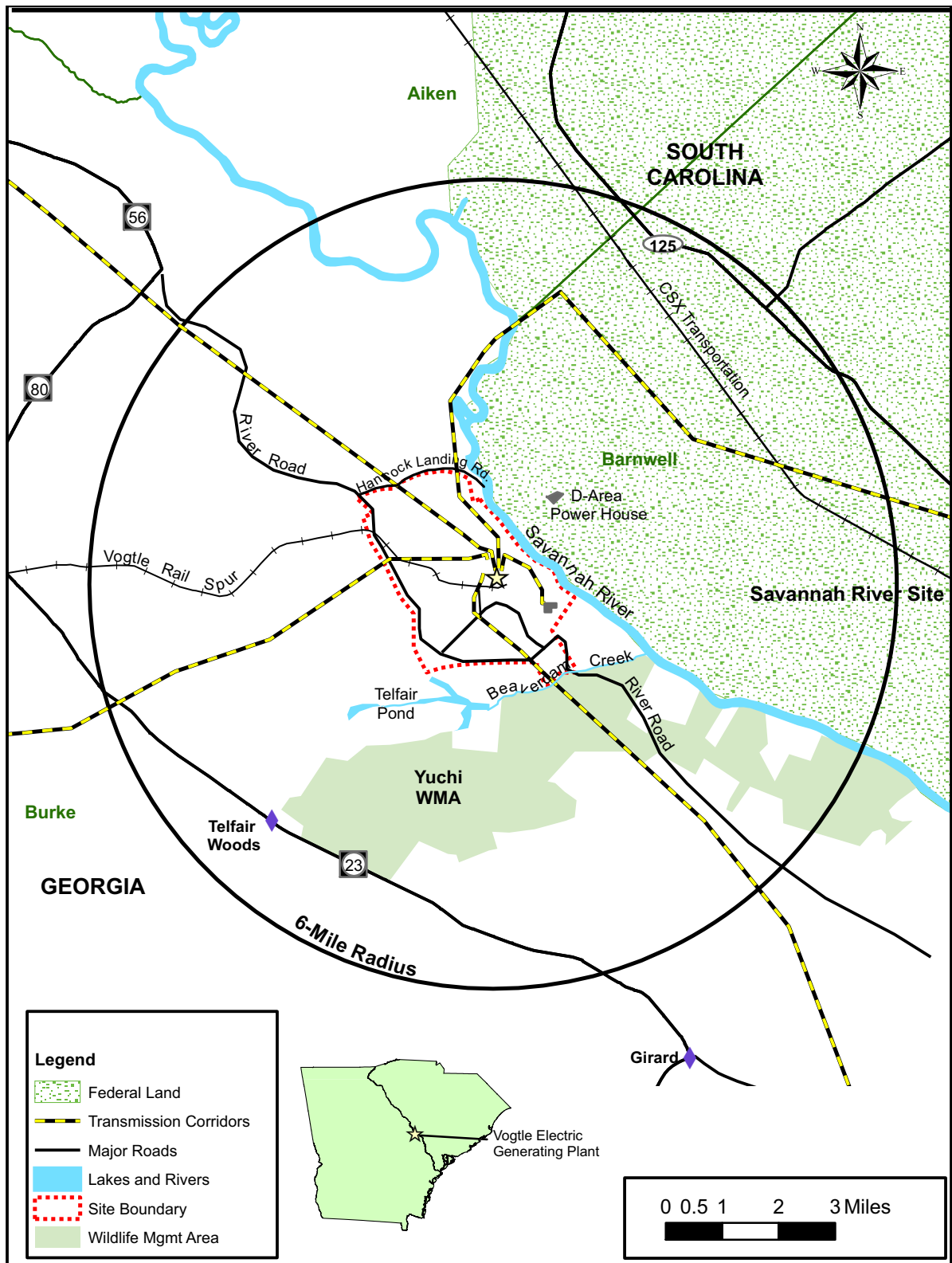


Figure 2.1.3 6-Mile Vicinity

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**Southern Nuclear
Operating Company, Inc.**
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201-1295

Tel 205.992.5000



April 24, 2006

AR-06-0851

Dr. Ray Luce
Division Director & Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Historic Preservation Division
Department of Natural Resources
34 Peachtree Street, NW Suite 1600
Atlanta, GA 30303-2316

Re: Vogtle Electric Generating Plant – Early Site Permit
Request for Project Initiation on Historic and Archaeological Resources

Dear Dr. Luce:

Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) is preparing an application to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for an Early Site Permit for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) located in Burke County, Georgia. The application will be based on construction of two Westinghouse AP-1000 reactors and is scheduled for submittal to the NRC by August 15, 2006. The Early Site Permit, when granted, approves the site as suitable for construction of new nuclear units, but does not constitute a commitment on the part of Southern Company to construct new units on the site. The Early Site Permit can be granted for a period of up to twenty years.

As part of the Early Site Permit application process, the NRC requires license applicants to assess whether any historic or archaeological properties will be affected by the proposed project. NRC may also request an informal consultation with your office under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470), and Federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regulations (36 CFR 800). By contacting you early in the application process, we hope to identify any issues that need to be addressed or any information your office may need to support the NRC consultation.

VEGP lies on the west bank of the Savannah River in the eastern sector of Burke County, Georgia, at River Mile 151, approximately 23 river miles upstream from the intersection of the Savannah River and U.S. Highway 301. The VEGP site encompasses approximately 3,169 acres, roughly one-half of which (1,778 acres) are undeveloped (old fields, forests, and wetlands) and managed as a wildlife preserve. The Vogtle site is served by the approximately 340 miles of transmission lines divided among six (6) corridors. One of the corridors, Vogtle-Wilson, connects Vogtle to the adjacent combustion turbine plant, Plant Wilson, and is contained entirely on the site property. The other corridors consist of three 230 kV lines: Vogtle-Savannah River Site; Vogtle-Goshen; and Vogtle-Augusta Newsprint (a nine-mile loop off of the Vogtle-Goshen line), and two 500 kV lines: Vogtle-Thalmann and Vogtle-Scherer.

AR-06-0851

Dr. Ray Luce – Page 2

Southern Nuclear is currently in Phase I of surveying the Areas of Potential Effect. New South Associates is performing the cultural resources survey and will develop a written report. Southern Nuclear will provide an advance copy of the report to your office to support early review prior to filing the Early Site Permit application with the NRC.

This correspondence is provided in advance of the report transmittal to establish a project reference file and to allow for resource planning. Please assign Southern Nuclear a project number and provide the number in response to this correspondence. Southern Nuclear will include a copy of this letter and your response in the Early Site Permit application submittal to the NRC. Any subsequent correspondence prior to application submittal, such as transmittal of the Phase I report, will also be included.

Please call me at (205) 992-5807 or Ms. Amy Greene at (205) 992-5805 if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Original signed by T. C. Moorer

T. C. Moorer
Project Manager – Environmental Support

TCM/ABG

Enclosure: Figures 2.1-1 and 2.1-3

cc: C. R. Pierce (w/o attachment)
J. M. Godfrey (w/o attachment)
File AR.01.01.06
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AR-06-0851
Dr. Ray Luce – Page 3

bc: (w/ attachment)
 A. S. Hendricks
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 M. C. Nichols
 A. B. Greene

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 R. D. Hill
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**Southern Nuclear
Operating Company, Inc.**
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201-1295

Tel 205.992.5000



August 2, 2006

AR-06-1727

Mr. Rodger Stroup
Division Director
State Historic Preservation Office
South Carolina Department of Archives and History
8301 Parklane Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29223

Re: Vogtle Electric Generating Plant – Early Site Permit
Request for Project Initiation on Historic and Archaeological Resources

Dear Mr. Stroup:

Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) is preparing an application to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for an Early Site Permit for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) located in Burke County, Georgia. The application will be based on construction of two Westinghouse AP-1000 reactors and is scheduled for submittal to the NRC by August 15, 2006. The Early Site Permit, when granted, approves the site as suitable for construction of new nuclear units, but does not constitute a commitment on the part of Southern Company to construct new units on the site. The Early Site Permit can be granted for a period of up to twenty years.

As part of the Early Site Permit application process, the NRC requires license applicants to assess whether any historic or archaeological properties will be affected by the proposed project. NRC may also request an informal consultation with your office under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470), and Federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regulations (36 CFR 800). By contacting you early in the application process, we hope to identify any issues that need to be addressed or any information your office may need to support the NRC consultation.

VEGP lies on the west bank of the Savannah River in the eastern sector of Burke County, Georgia, directly across from the Department of Energy Savannah River Site, at River Mile 151, approximately 30 river miles upstream from the intersection of the Savannah River and U.S. Highway 301. The VEGP site encompasses approximately 3,169 acres, roughly one-half of which (1,778 acres) are undeveloped (old fields, forests, and wetlands) and managed as a wildlife preserve. The Vogtle site is served by the approximately 340 miles of transmission lines divided among six (6) corridors. One of the corridors, Vogtle-Wilson, connects Vogtle to the adjacent combustion turbine plant, Plant Wilson, and is contained entirely on the site property. The other corridors consist of three 230 kV lines: Vogtle-Savannah River Site; Vogtle-Goshen; and Vogtle-Augusta Newsprint (a nine-mile loop off of the Vogtle-Goshen line), and two 500 kV lines: Vogtle-Thalman and Vogtle-Scherer.

AR-06-1727

Mr. Rodger Stroup – Page 2

Southern Nuclear is currently in Phase I of surveying the Areas of Potential Effect. New South Associates is performing the cultural resources survey and will develop a written report. Southern Nuclear will provide a copy of the report to your office to upon completion.

This correspondence is provided in advance of the report transmittal to establish a project reference file and to allow for resource planning. Due to a transmission line beginning at the VEGP site and terminating in South Carolina and certain South Carolina sites within a ten-mile radius of the VEGP site being eligible for listing on the *National Register*, Southern Nuclear is initiating communication with your office. If appropriate, please assign Southern Nuclear a project number and provide the number in response to this correspondence.

A copy of this letter will be included in the Early Site Permit submittal to the NRC.

Please call me at (205) 992-5807 or Ms. Amy Aughtman at (205) 992-5805 if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Original signed by T. C. Moorer

T. C. Moorer
Project Manager – Environmental Support

TCM/ABG

Enclosure: Figures 2.1-1 and 2.1-3

cc: C. R. Pierce (w/o attachment)
J. M. Godfrey (w/o attachment)
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Mr. Rodger Stroup – Page 3

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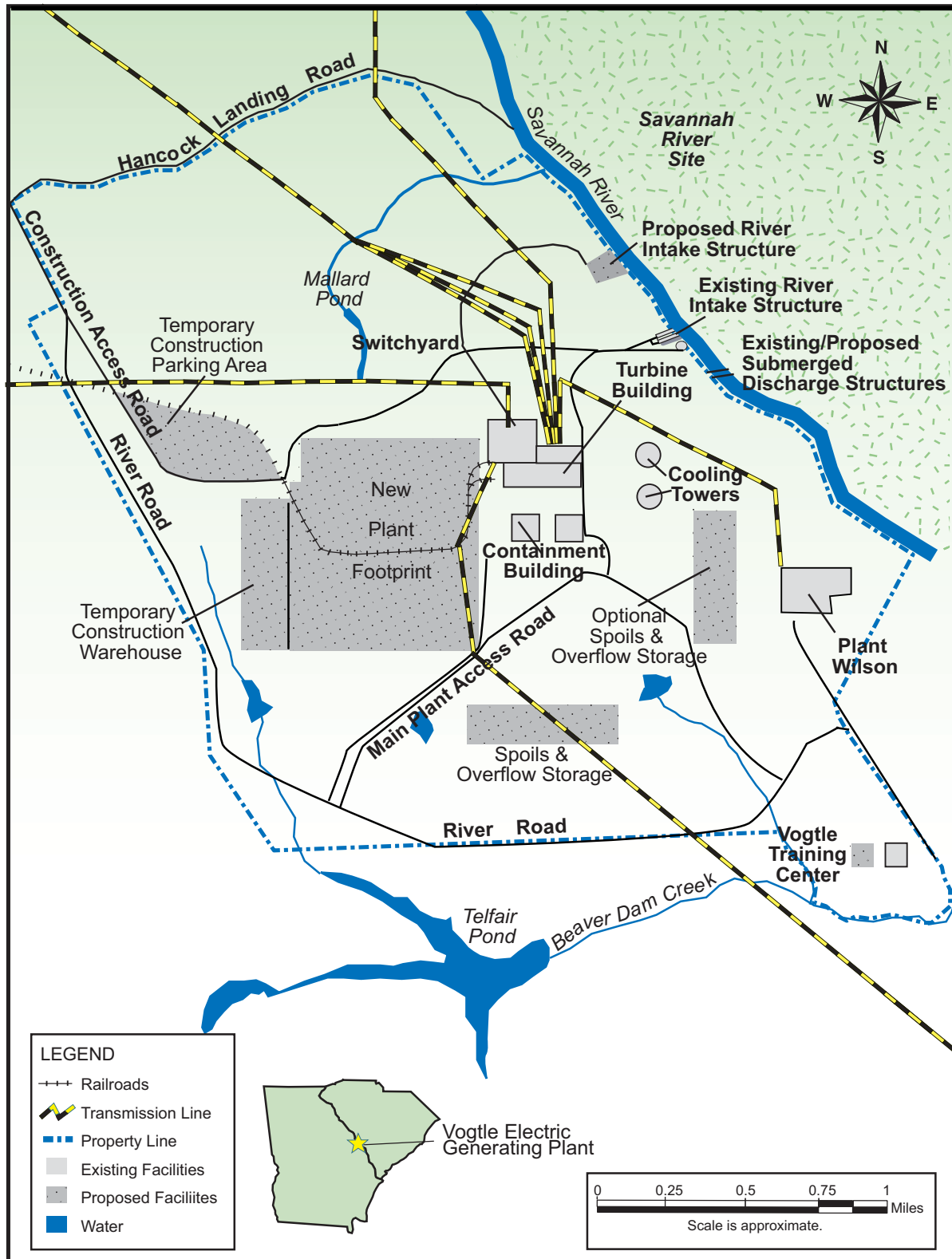


Figure 2.1-1 VEGP Site and Proposed New Plant Footprint

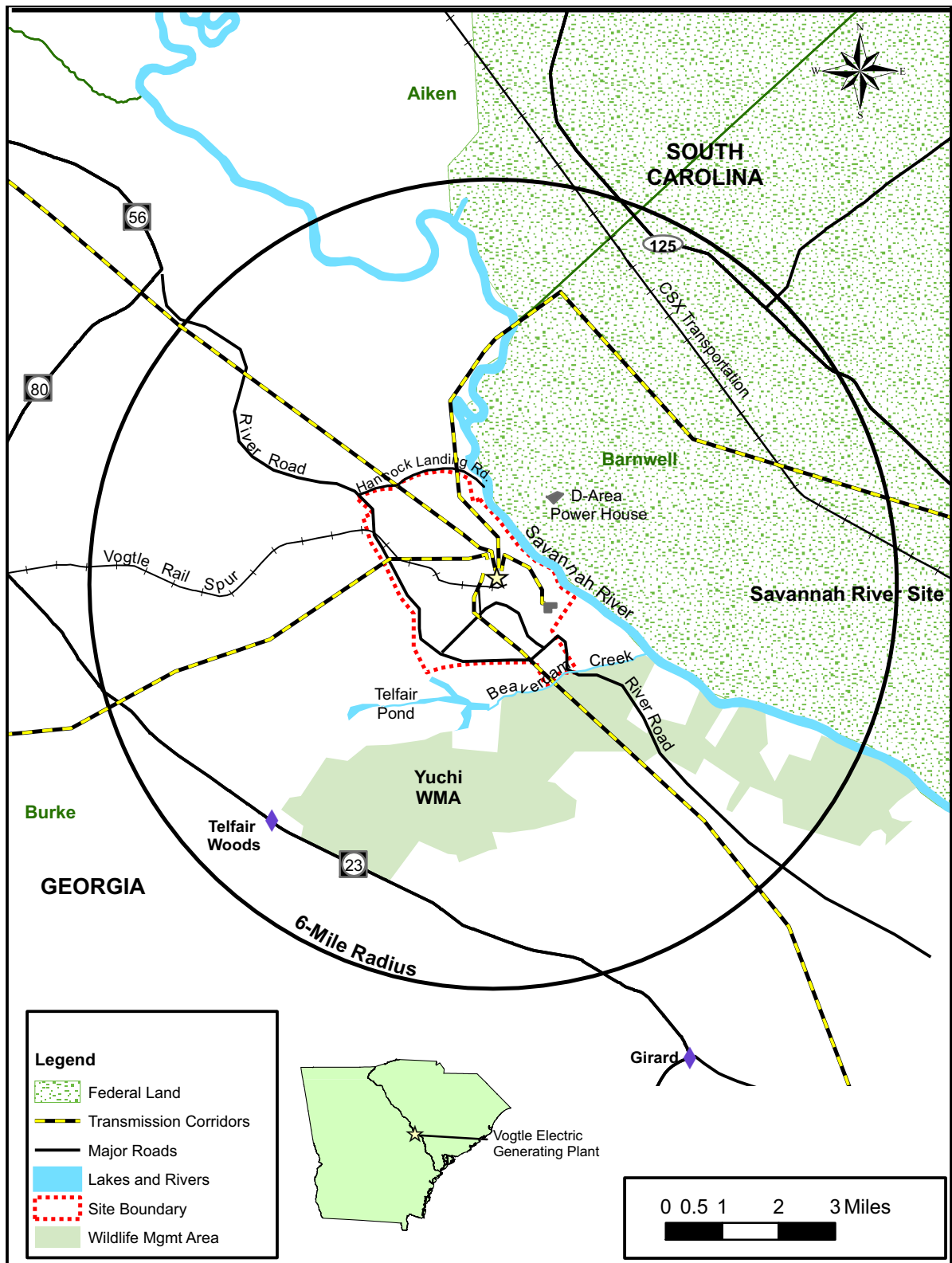


Figure 2.1.3 6-Mile Vicinity

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