



July 22, 2009

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Managing fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people.

620 South Meridian Street
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32399-1600
Voice: (850) 488-4676

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(800) 955-8770 (V)

MyFWC.com

David J. Wrona, Chief Projects Branch 2
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
MS 011E1
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reaction Regulation
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Re: Request for a list of protected species within the area under evaluation for the Crystal River Unit 3 Nuclear Generating Plant License Renewal Application Review, Citrus County

Dear Mr. Wrona:

The Division of Habitat and Species Conservation, Habitat Conservation Scientific Services Section, of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has coordinated our agency's review of the referenced License Renewal Application (LRA), and provides the following information. This response is being provided under the provisions of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 51, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) regulation that implements the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Project Description

The NRC is reviewing an application submitted by Florida Power Corporation for the renewal of the operating license for Crystal River Unit 3 Nuclear Generating Plant (CR-3). As part of the LRA review, the NRC is preparing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). The SEIS includes an analysis of pertinent environmental issues, including wildlife listed by the State as Endangered, Threatened, or Species of Special Concern.

CR-3 is located in Citrus County about 35 miles southwest of Ocala, Florida (Attachment 1). The CR-3 site is on the Crystal Bay, a shallow embayment of the Gulf of Mexico. The CR-3 site covers approximately 4,738 acres, of which approximately 1,062 acres are occupied by industrial facilities. The remaining acreage consists of salt marsh, hardwood hammock forest, pineland, and freshwater swamp.

The Atomic Energy Commission identifies two 500-kilovolt transmission lines that were built to connect CR-3 to the electric grid (Attachment 2). These two transmission corridors occupy approximately 2,440 acres. The Central Florida line is approximately 53 miles long, terminates at the Central Florida Substation; and crosses Citrus, Marion, and Sumter counties. The Lake Tarpon line is approximately 81 miles long, terminates at the Lake Tarpon Substation; and crosses Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, and Pinellas counties. Both lines are owned and operated by Florida Power Corporation and are included in the LRA review process.

Potentially Affected Resources

The NRC has requested information on species listed as Endangered, Threatened, or Species of Special Concern that may be in the vicinity of CR-3 and its associated transmission line rights-of-way.

Crystal River Unit 3 Nuclear Generating Plant

According to our Geographic Information System (GIS) analysis, the Crystal River Unit 3 Nuclear Generating Plant study area contains or falls within:

- Bear Range – Chassahowitzka Subpopulation-Secondary Zones;
- Priority wetlands for the American alligator, American oystercatcher, Homosassa shrew, Florida black bear, little blue heron, tricolored heron, Marian’s marsh wren, Scott’s seaside sparrow, brown pelican, gopher frog, and bald eagle;
- Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas for the bald eagle and Scott’s seaside sparrow;
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Consultation Area for the Florida scrub-jay and red-cockaded woodpecker;
- Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) – Manatee Aggregation Site;
- FNAI Conservation Lands – Waccasassa Bay Preserve State Park, Crystal River Archeological State Park, Crystal River Preserve State Park, Felburn Park; Yankeetown Conservation Area, and Marjorie Harris Carr Conservation Area; and
- FNAI Conservation Needs – Under-Represented Natural Communities: Pine flatwoods and sandhill.

These habitats support a diverse array of wildlife species including 31 that are protected by state or federal law.

Potentially Occurring Listed Fish and Wildlife Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status*	1-Mile Radius	5-Mile Radius
Smalltooth sawfish	<i>Pristis pectinata</i>	FE	X	X
American alligator	<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>	SSC; FT	X	
Gopher frog	<i>Rana capito</i>	SSC		X
Gopher tortoise	<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	ST	X	X
Hawksbill sea turtle	<i>Eretmochelys imbricate</i>	SE; FE		X
Eastern indigo snake	<i>Drymarchon corais couperi</i>	ST; FT	X	X
Florida pine snake	<i>Pituophis melanoleucus mugitus</i>	SSC		X
Short-tailed snake	<i>Stilosoma extenuatum</i>	ST		X
Suwannee cooter	<i>Pseudemys concinna suwanniensis</i>	SSC		X
Piping plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	ST; FT	X	X
Least tern	<i>Sterna antillarum</i>	ST		X
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Not Listed**	X	X
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	SSC	X	X

Peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	SE		X
Southeastern American kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius paulus</i>	ST	X	X
American oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>	SSC		X
Brown pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	SSC	X	X
Black skimmer	<i>Rynchops niger</i>	SSC		X
Little blue heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	SSC	X	X
Snowy egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	SSC		X
Tricolored heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	SSC		X
White ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>	SSC		X
Florida scrub-jay	<i>Aphelocoma coerulescens</i>	ST; FT		X
Marian's marsh wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris marianae</i>	SSC	X	X
Scott's seaside sparrow	<i>Ammodramus maritimus peninsulae</i>	SSC	X	X
Wood stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	SE; FE		X
Florida black bear	<i>Ursus americanus floridanus</i>	ST	X	X
Florida manatee	<i>Trichechus manatus latirostris</i>	SE; FE	X	X
Florida mouse	<i>Podomys floridanus</i>	SSC	X	X
Homosassa shrew	<i>Sorex longirostris eionis</i>	SSC	X	X
Sherman's fox squirrel	<i>Sciurus niger shermani</i>	SSC	X	X

* SSC - Species of Special Concern; ST - State Threatened; SE - State Endangered; FT - Federally Threatened; FE - Federally Endangered

** Covered by the federal Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the State's Bald Eagle Rule (see

http://myfwc.com/docs/WildlifeHabitats/Eagle_Plan_April_2008.pdf#page=35)

Central Florida Transmission Line

Our Geographic Information System (GIS) analysis incorporated a half-mile buffer study area around the Central Florida line, and we found that this area contains or falls within:

- Bear Range – Chassahowitzka and Ocala subpopulations-Secondary Zones;
- Priority wetlands for the American alligator, limpkin, Homosassa shrew, Florida black bear, little blue heron, tricolored heron, snowy egret, gopher frog, and bald eagle;
- Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas for the bald eagle, limpkin, sandhill communities, and rare plant species;
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Consultation Area for the Florida scrub-jay, snail kite, red-cockaded woodpecker, and Lake Wales Ridge plants;
- FNAI Conservation Lands – Ventura Ranch, Gum Slough Springs, Ross Prairie State Forest, Halpata Tastanaki Preserve, Withlacoochee State Forest, Potts Preserve, Lake Panasoffkee, and Crystal River Preserve State Park; and
- FNAI Conservation Needs – Under-Represented Natural Communities: Pine flatwoods, sandhill, and upland hardwood forest.

These habitats support a diverse array of wildlife species including 20 that are protected by state or federal law.

Potentially Occurring Listed Wildlife Species

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status*</u>
American alligator	<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>	SSC; FT
Gopher frog	<i>Rana capito</i>	SSC
Gopher tortoise	<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	ST
Eastern indigo snake	<i>Drymarchon corais couperi</i>	ST; FT
Florida pine snake	<i>Pituophis melanoleucus mugitus</i>	SSC
Short-tailed snake	<i>Stilosoma extenuatum</i>	ST
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Not Listed**
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	SSC
Southeastern American kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius paulus</i>	ST
Red-cockaded woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	SSC, FE
Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>	SSC
Florida sandhill crane	<i>Grus canadensis pratensis</i>	ST
Little blue heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	SSC
Snowy egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	SSC
Tricolored heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	SSC
Florida scrub-jay	<i>Aphelocoma coerulescens</i>	ST; FT
Florida black bear	<i>Ursus americanus floridanus</i>	ST
Florida mouse	<i>Podomys floridanus</i>	SSC
Homosassa shrew	<i>Sorex longirostris eionis</i>	SSC
Sherman's fox squirrel	<i>Sciurus niger shermani</i>	SSC

* SSC - Species of Special Concern; ST - State Threatened; SE - State Endangered; FT - Federally Threatened; FE - Federally Endangered

** Covered by the federal Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the State's Bald Eagle Rule (see http://myfwc.com/docs/WildlifeHabitats/Eagle_Plan_April_2008.pdf#page=35)

Lake Tarpon Transmission Line

Our Geographic Information System (GIS) analysis incorporated a half-mile buffer study area around the Lake Tarpon line, and we found that this area contains or falls within:

- Bear Range – Chassahowitzka Subpopulation-Secondary Zones;
- Priority wetlands for the American alligator, limpkin, Homosassa shrew, Florida black bear, little blue heron, tricolored heron, wood stork, Florida sandhill crane, white ibis, gopher frog, and reddish egret;
- Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas for wading birds and scrub communities;
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Consultation Area for the Florida scrub-jay and red-cockaded woodpecker;
- FNAI Conservation Lands – Starkey Wilderness Park, Brooker Creek Preserve, Withlacoochee State Forest, Annatteliga Hammock, Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area, and Lake Dan Preserve; and
- FNAI Conservation Needs – Under-Represented Natural Communities: Pine flatwoods, sandhill, and scrub.

These habitats support a diverse array of wildlife species including 24 that are protected by state or federal law.

Potentially Occurring Listed Wildlife Species

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status*</u>
American alligator	<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>	SSC; FT
Gopher frog	<i>Rana capito</i>	SSC
Gopher tortoise	<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	ST
Red rat snake	<i>Elaphe guttata</i>	SSC
Eastern indigo snake	<i>Drymarchon corais couperi</i>	ST; FT
Florida pine snake	<i>Pituophis melanoleucus mugitus</i>	SSC
Short-tailed snake	<i>Stilosoma extenuatum</i>	ST
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Not Listed**
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	SSC
Southeastern American kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius paulus</i>	ST
Red-cockaded woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	SSC, FE
Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>	SSC
Florida sandhill crane	<i>Grus canadensis pratensis</i>	ST
Little blue heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	SSC
Snowy egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	SSC
Tricolored heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	SSC
White ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>	SSC
Florida scrub-jay	<i>Aphelocoma coerulescens</i>	ST; FT
Florida burrowing owl	<i>Athene cunicularia floridana</i>	SSC
Wood stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	SE; FE
Florida black bear	<i>Ursus americanus floridanus</i>	ST
Florida mouse	<i>Podomys floridanus</i>	SSC
Homosassa shrew	<i>Sorex longirostris eionis</i>	SSC
Sherman's fox squirrel	<i>Sciurus niger shermani</i>	SSC

* SSC - Species of Special Concern; ST - State Threatened; SE - State Endangered; FT - Federally Threatened; FE - Federally Endangered

** Covered by the federal Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the State's Bald Eagle Rule (see

http://myfwc.com/docs/WildlifeHabitats/Eagle_Plan_April_2008.pdf#page=35)

Thank you for the opportunity to assist in the review of this LRA renewal process. If you or your staff would like to coordinate further on the information provided in this letter, please contact me at 850-410-5272 or by email at MaryAnn.Poole@myfwc.com and I will be glad to make the necessary arrangements. If you have any specific questions

David J. Wrona
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regarding our analysis, please contact Luis F. Gonzalez by phone at 863-581-6914 or by email at Luis.Gonzalez@myfwc.com.

Sincerely,



Mary Ann Poole
Commenting Program Coordinator

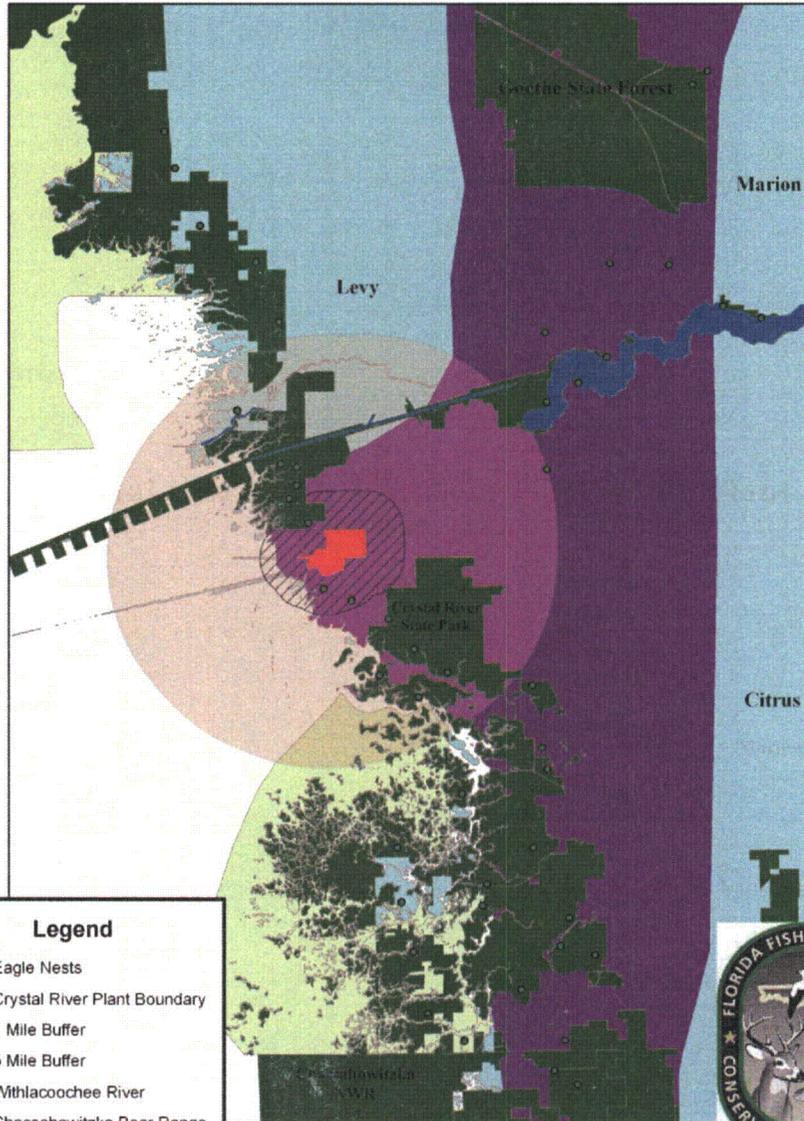
map/lg

Crystal River Nuclear Plant Unit 3_2251_07-20-09
ENV 1-3-2

cc: Elaine Keegan, NRC (Elaine.Keegan@nrc.gov)

Attachment 1.

**Crystal River Unit 3 Nuclear Generating Plant
Citrus County, Florida**



Legend

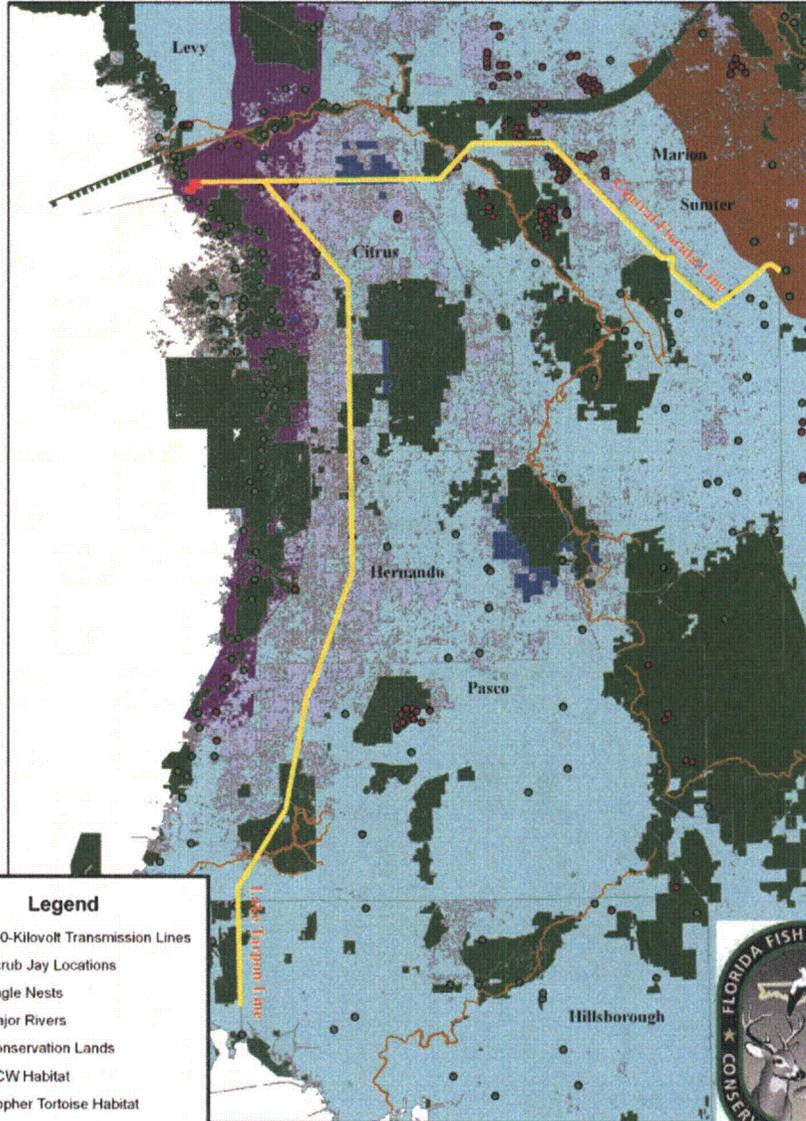
- Eagle Nests
- Crystal River Plant Boundary
- ▨ 1 Mile Buffer
- 5 Mile Buffer
- Withlacoochee River
- Chassahowitzka Bear Range
- Conservation Lands
- Aquatic Preserves



Habitat Conservation
Scientific Services

Attachment 2.

Crystal River Transmission Lines Florida



Legend

- 500-Kilovolt Transmission Lines
- Scrub Jay Locations
- Eagle Nests
- Major Rivers
- Conservation Lands
- RCW Habitat
- Gopher Tortoise Habitat
- Crystal River Plant Boundary
- Chassahowitzka Bear Range
- Ocala Bear Range



Habitat Conservation
Scientific Services