



United States Department of the Interior

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



July 26, 2010

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RULES AND DIRECTIVES
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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

Attn: Patricia Vokoun

Re: Virgil C. Summers Nuclear Station, Fairfield County, SC,
Draft Environmental Impact Statement, FWS Log No. 42410-2010-CPA-0165
Dear Sir/Madam:
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has received the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) request for comments regarding the construction of two new nuclear reactors proposed by South Carolina Electric and Gas (SCE&G) near the Monticello Reservoir, Fairfield County, South Carolina. The NRC has developed a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to analyze environmental issues associated with the proposed construction. 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 in preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) evaluating potential environmental issues and alternative considerations. Included within the DEIS, a Biological Assessment (BA) was prepared to address potential impacts to threatened and endangered species (T&E) protected under the Endangered Species Act, as amended (Act).

NRC staff concluded in the BA that no T&E species will be impacted through construction of the proposed reactors on the current site. However, NRC recognizes there is a potential to impact T&E through construction/upgrade of six transmission lines proposed as part of the action. In the absence of on ground surveys for protected species NRC compared all the proposed corridors against known locations of T&E species based upon the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) Heritage Trust Program database. Based upon this data, NRC made a determination of impact to T&E species. NRC does note that the final locations of the transmission corridors are not yet known and that ground surveys will be performed once the preferred corridors are

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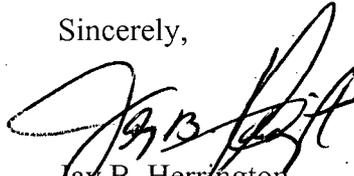
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Call = P. Vokoun (PSU1)

determined. The Service recommends that the Final EIS incorporate final corridor alignments of the transmission lines and a species/habitat impact analyses for each alignment. Comments regarding potential impacts to resources and T&E species or habitat cannot be made until the final locations are selected.

The Service appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the DEIS for your consideration. If we can be of any assistance or 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay B. Herrington". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Jay B. Herrington
Field Supervisor

JBH/MAC