

## United States Department of the Interior

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

176 Croghan Spur Road, Suite 200  
Charleston, South Carolina 29407



March 14, 2011

Mr. Ryan Whitehead, Branch Chief  
Environmental Projects Branch  
Division of Site and Environmental Reviews  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Attn: Patricia Vokoun

Re: Biological Assessment, Virgil C. Summers Nuclear Station, Fairfield County, SC  
FWS Log No. 42410-2011-I-0177

Dear Mr. Whitehead:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has received the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) supplemental information to the Biological Assessment (BA) regarding the placement of transmission lines associated with the construction of two new reactors at the V. C. Summer Nuclear Station, Fairfield County, South Carolina. The supplemental information to the BA (Supplement) was submitted to address potential impacts the facility's transmission lines may have upon federally protected habitat and species. Your request is being made as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act) and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934.

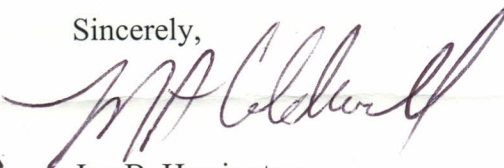
As detailed in the Supplement, multiple threatened and endangered species (T&E) and their habitat may be found along the transmission line corridors. A total of twelve T&E species, eight plants and four animal species, may be impacted through the placement of additional lines to an existing corridor or through the placement of new lines along a new corridor. One of the lines to be upgraded crosses a portion of Flat Creek that is considered critical habitat for the endangered freshwater mussel, the Carolina heelsplitter. The NRC Supplement reviewed each of the T&E species and their habitat requirements within the corridors and determined that a 'may affect, but not likely to adversely affect' conclusion is appropriate for all twelve species. Further, the lines will not adversely modify critical habitat for the Carolina heelsplitter.

Based upon information provided in the Supplement the Service concurs that the construction and placement of the proposed transmission lines are not likely to adversely affect species

currently protected by the Act nor adversely modify critical habitat. Please note that obligations under section 7 of the Act must be reconsidered if (1) new information reveals impacts of this identified action may affect any listed species or critical habitat in a manner not previously considered, (2) this action is subsequently modified in a manner which was not considered in this assessment, or (3) a new species is listed or critical habitat is designated that may be affected by the identified action.

If you have any questions regarding the Service's determination, please do not hesitate to contact Mark Caldwell at 843-727-4707 (ext. 215).

Sincerely,

  
*Jir* Jay B. Herrington  
Field Supervisor

JBH/MAC