

## NRR-PMDAPEm Resource

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**From:** ecos-support@fws.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2013 10:19 AM  
**To:** Logan, Dennis  
**Subject:** Official Species list for project: Hatch NuclearPlant  
**Attachments:** Official\_Species\_List\_GA ESFO.pdf

This email contains a US Fish and Wildlife Service official species list for your project (Hatch NuclearPlant) from the following office:

GEORGIA ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FIELD OFFICE  
105 WESTPARK DRIVE  
WESTPARK CENTER SUITE D  
ATHENS, GA 30606  
(706) 613-9493

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**Subject:** Official Species list for project: Hatch NuclearPlant  
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**From:** ecos-support@fws.gov

**Created By:** ecos-support@fws.gov

**Recipients:**  
"Logan, Dennis" <Dennis.Logan@nrc.gov>  
Tracking Status: None

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# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
GEORGIA ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FIELD OFFICE  
105 WESTPARK DRIVE, WESTPARK CENTER SUITE D  
ATHENS, GA 30606  
PHONE: (706)613-9493 FAX: (706)613-6059

Consultation Tracking Number: 04EG1000-2013-SLI-0435

February 28, 2013

Project Name: Hatch NuclearPlant

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project.

## To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, and proposed species, designated critical habitat, and candidate species that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need assistance regarding potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally-designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information.

The Endangered Species Act prohibits “take” of a listed species of fish or wildlife, where take is defined as to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect a listed species and/or to degrade habitat such that the action kills or injures a listed species by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, such as breeding, feeding or sheltering.”

Development activities that increase impervious surface and stormwater runoff can degrade habitat for federally-protected aquatic species by:

- Requiring culverts or other instream structures that block fish passage and reduce stream channel and bank stability;

- Increasing turbidity in stream systems during land-disturbing activities;
- Causing long term declines in water quality due to increased concentrations of herbicides, pesticides, sediment, and other pollutants in stormwater flowing from the site; and/or
- Altering downstream hydrology in stream systems due to increased stormwater runoff, with resulting downstream channel scour, reduced bank stability, and increased long-term sedimentation and turbidity.

**We recommend that proponents of urban development projects contact us early in the design process to discuss construction and maintenance best management practices that will minimize impacts of development on rare fish and other aquatic species.** In general, we recommend the following measures for post-construction stormwater management, road and utility crossings, and grading, in addition to adequate sediment and erosion control, protection of riparian buffers, and control of stormwater during construction.

### **Stormwater Runoff**

- Infiltrate excess stormwater generated by the development.
- Design and implement structural and non-structural BMPs so that all runoff from impervious surfaces is directed to on-site stormwater controls.
- Use numerous distributed stormwater BMPs located as close as possible to runoff-generating sources. A distributed stormwater management system is less prone to environmentally damaging failure than a system that relies on a single facility to serve an entire site.

### **Road Crossings** (recommendations meet Corps requirements for use of NWP 14)

- Bridge any stream with a drainage area equal to or greater than 20 sqmi.
- Cross streams with a drainage area smaller than 20 sqmi and larger than 0.2 sqmi with bridges, bottomless culverts, or embedded box or pipe culverts. Multi-barrel culverts should be designed using box culverts, preferably with a bottomless center barrel(s).
- Accommodate bank-full flows at all road crossings, and culvert floodplains, where present, to allow sheetflow of stormwaters.
- Embed all culverts (except bottomless) 25% of their diameter or rise and place them at the existing channel slope.
- Design all stream crossings to maximize infiltration of stormwater runoff generated by roadways.

### **Utility Crossings**

- Use isolation crossing methods and limit open trench work to periods outside the goldline darter spawning period

### **Grading**

- Limit the surface area of erodible material at one time to 17 acres
- Leave at least 30% of all areas of a site that contain slopes equal to or greater than 25% over a contiguous area of at least 5000 sqft ungraded.

Bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*). Projects affecting these species may require development of an eagle conservation plan ([http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/eagle\\_guidance.html](http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/eagle_guidance.html)).

Wind energy projects should follow the wind energy guidelines <http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/> for minimizing impacts to migratory birds and bats.

Guidance for minimizing impacts to migratory birds for projects including communications towers (e.g., cellular, digital television, radio, and emergency broadcast) can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/towers.htm>; <http://www.towerkill.com>; and <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/comtow.html>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment



United States Department of Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: Hatch Nuclear Plant

## Official Species List

**Provided by:**

GEORGIA ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FIELD OFFICE  
105 WESTPARK DRIVE  
WESTPARK CENTER SUITE D  
ATHENS, GA 30606  
(706) 613-9493

**Consultation Tracking Number:** 04EG1000-2013-SLI-0435

**Project Type:** Power Generation

**Project Description:** Request to the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission to revise the minimum water level at which the Hatch Nuclear Plant can withdraw cooling water from the Altamaha River.



United States Department of Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: Hatch NuclearPlant

**Project Counties:** Toombs, GA



United States Department of Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: Hatch NuclearPlant

## Endangered Species Act Species List

Species lists are not entirely based upon the current range of a species but may also take into consideration actions that affect a species that exists in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

### Altamaha Spiny mussel (*Elliptio spinosa*)

Population: Entire

Listing Status: Endangered

Critical Habitat: Final designated

### Eastern Indigo snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*)

Population: Entire

Listing Status: Threatened

### Gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*)

Population: eastern

Listing Status: Candidate

### Shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*)

Population: Entire

Listing Status: Endangered