



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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



May 20, 2015

Ms. Lydia Chang, Chief
Environmental Review Branch
c/o Document Control Desk
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mailstop: T-4B16
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Re: Westinghouse Fuel Fabrication Facility, Columbia, Richland County, South Carolina
FWS Log No. 2015-I-0359

Dear Ms. Chang:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has received your request for a section 7 review for the 40-year license renewal of the Westinghouse Fuel Fabrication Facility in Columbia, South Carolina. In accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has evaluated the potential impacts to federally protected species by the proposed facility relicensing. You are now seeking the Service's concurrence pursuant to section 7 of the ESA.

The NRC does not plan to expand or construct new buildings as a part of the license renewal process. You do intend to expand an existing storage pad on the facility grounds. The new storage pad will be constructed on land that has already been disturbed through prior development. As there is no new ground disturbance or expansion of the facility, NRC concluded that renewal of the special nuclear materials license is unlikely to impact (equivalent to may affect, but not likely to adversely affect) federally listed threatened or endangered species.

Based on our review of the information received and of the project location, the Service concurs with your determination that the proposed activity is not likely to adversely affect federally listed species. Further, no designated critical habitat for listed species occurs on the project site. Please note that due to obligations under the ESA potential impacts of this project 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

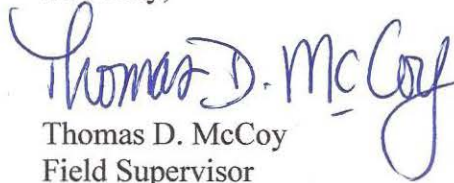
subsequently modified in a manner, which was not considered in this assessment; or (3) a new species is listed or critical habitat is designated that may be affected by the identified action.

For informational purposes only, the Service has included a list of species that have been petitioned for listing under the Endangered Species Act as well as Candidate Species. These species are collectively referred to as "At-Risk Species" (ARS) and may occur in Richland County, South Carolina. Although there are no Federal protections afforded to ARS, please consider including them in your project development. Incorporating proactive measures to avoid or minimize harm to ARS may improve their status and assist with precluding the need to list these species. Additional information on ARS can be found at:

<http://www.fws.gov/southeast/candidateconservation>

Please contact the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources regarding potential impacts that may have occurred to State protected species. If the project impacted wetlands, contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District. If you have any questions, you may contact Mr. Mark Caldwell at (843) 727-4707, ext. 215 and reference FWS Log No. 2015-I-0359.

Sincerely,


Thomas D. McCoy
Field Supervisor

TDM/MAC

Enclosure

South Carolina List of At-Risk, Candidate, Endangered, and Threatened Species - Richland County

CATEGORY	COMMON NAME/STATUS	SCIENTIFIC NAME	SURVEY WINDOW/ TIME PERIOD	COMMENTS
Amphibian	Chamberlain's dwarf salamander (ARS)	<i>Eurycea chamberlaini</i>	Spring/Fall surveys	Breeding survey: November to February
Bird	American wood stork (T)	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	February 15-September 1	Nesting season
	Bald eagle (BGEPA)	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	October 1-May 15	Nesting season
	Red-cockaded woodpecker (E)	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	April 1-July 31	Nesting season
Crustacean	Broad River spiny crayfish (ARS)	<i>Cambarus spicatus</i>	November-April	
Fish	American eel (ARS)	<i>Anguilla rostrata</i>	March 1-May 30; October 1-December 15	Temperature dependent: normally (17-20°C); can be found between 13-25°C
	Atlantic sturgeon* (E)	<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus*</i>	February 1-April 30	Spawning migration
	Blueback herring (ARS)	<i>Alosa aestivalis</i>	Mid-January-mid May	Peak: March-April
	Robust redhorse (ARS)	<i>Moxostoma robustum</i>	Late April-early May	Temperature dependent: 16-24°C
	Shortnose sturgeon* (E)	<i>Acipenser brevirostrum*</i>	February 1-April 30	Spawning migration
Insect	None Found			
Mammal	Rafinesque's big-eared bat (ARS)	<i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii</i>	Year round	Found in mines, caves, large hollow trees, buildings, and bat towers
	Tri-colored bat (ARS*)	<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>	Year round	Found in mines and caves in the winter
Mollusk	Savannah lilliput (ARS)	<i>Toxolasma pullus</i>	March 1-September 30	
Plant	Bog spicebush (ARS)	<i>Lindera subcoriacea</i>	March-August	
	Canby's dropwort (E)	<i>Oxypolis canbyi</i>	Mid-July-September	
	Ciliate-leaf tickseed (ARS)	<i>Coreopsis integrifolia</i>	August-November	
	Georgia aster (ARS*)	<i>Symphyotrichum georgianum</i>	Early October-mid November	
	Purple baldwinia (ARS)	<i>Baldwinia atropurpurea</i>	August-November	
	Rough-leaved loosestrife (E)	<i>Lysimachia asperulaefolia</i>	Mid May-September	
	Sandhills lily (ARS*)	<i>Lilium pyrophilum</i>	Late July-August	
	Smooth coneflower (E)	<i>Echinacea laevigata</i>	Late May-October	
	Spathulate seedbox (ARS)	<i>Ludwigia spathulata</i>	June-October	
	Wire-leaved dropseed (ARS)	<i>Sporobolus teretifolius</i>	August-September	Following fire
Reptile	Southern hognose snake (ARS)	<i>Heterodon simus</i>	Most of the year	

South Carolina List of At-Risk, Candidate, Endangered, and Threatened Species - Richland County

- * Contact National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for more information on this species
- ** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and NMFS share jurisdiction of this species
- ARS Species that the FWS has been petitioned to list and for which a positive 90-day finding has been issued (listing may be warranted); information is provided only for conservation actions as no Federal protections currently exist.
- ARS* Species that are either former Candidate Species or are emerging conservation priority species
- BGEPA Federally protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
- C FWS or NMFS has on file sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threat(s) to support proposals to list these species
- CH Critical Habitat
- E Federally Endangered
- P or P - CH Proposed for listing or critical habitat in the Federal Register
- S/A Federally protected due to similarity of appearance to a listed species
- T Federally Threatened

These lists should be used only as a guideline, not as the final authority. The lists include known occurrences and areas where the species has a high possibility of occurring. Records are updated as deemed necessary and may differ from earlier lists.

For a list of State endangered, threatened, and species of concern, please visit <https://www.dnr.sc.gov/species/index.html>.