

PDR



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 30, 1999

PUBLIC DOCUMENT ROOM

Mr. Roger Banks, Field Supervisor
Charleston Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
217 Fort Johnson Road
Charleston, SC 29422-2559

SUBJECT: BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT FOR LICENSE RENEWAL AT OCONEE
NUCLEAR STATION AND REQUEST FOR INFORMAL CONSULTATION
(TAC NOS. M99162, M99163, AND M99164)

Dear Mr. Banks:

The NRC staff has prepared the enclosed biological assessment to evaluate whether the proposed renewal of the Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3 operating licenses for a period of an additional 20 years would have adverse effects on listed species. This biological assessment covers the area of the Oconee Nuclear Station, located in Oconee County, South Carolina and approximately 330 miles of transmission line rights-of-way that are located in South Carolina and North Carolina and are associated with the Oconee plant. This biological assessment is an expansion of a previous informal consultation initiated by Duke Energy Corporation (FWS Log No. 4-6-98-227).

A total of 20 Federally-listed species were considered in this biological assessment. The staff has determined that the proposed action is not a major construction activity and that it may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, 5 of the listed species, and it will have no effect on the remaining 15 species. No designated critical habitat for any listed species is located near the proposed action. We are placing this biological assessment in our project files and are requesting your concurrence with our determination.

In reaching our conclusion, the NRC staff relied on the geographical information system (GIS) data base information provided by the South Carolina and North Carolina Natural Heritage Programs and on current listings of species provided by the Charleston, South Carolina and Asheville, North Carolina offices of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

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R. Banks

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June 30, 1999

If you have any questions regarding this biological assessment or the staff's request, please contact the project manager, Jim Wilson, by telephone at (301) 415-1108 or by e-mail at jhw1@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,



Cynthia A. Carpenter, Chief
Generic Issues, Environmental, Financial,
and Rulemaking Branch
Division of Regulatory Improvement
Programs

Docket Nos. 50-269, 50-270, and 50-287

Enclosure: As Stated

cc w/encl: See next page

R. Banks

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Original Signed By:

Cynthia A. Carpenter, Chief
Generic Issues, Environmental, Financial,
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DATE	6/30/99	6/30/99	6/30/99	6/ /9

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