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Tran, Barbara Hayes

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Comment On: NRC-2018-0280-0001

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Document: NRC-2018-0280-DRAFT-0004

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-27547

Submitter Information

Name: Virginia DCR-DNH Virginia DCR-DNH

General Comment

See attached file(s)

Attachments

77638, NRC 2018-0280, Surry Power Station Units 1 and 2 License Renewal

Matthew J. Strickler
Secretary of Natural Resources

Clyde E. Cristman
Director



Rochelle Altholz
Deputy Director of
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Russell W. Baxter
Deputy Director of
Dam Safety & Floodplain
Management and Soil & Water
Conservation

Thomas L. Smith
Deputy Director of Operations

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

January 16, 2019

Tam Tran
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Washington, DC 20555

Re: NRC-2018-0280, Surry Power Station Units 1 and 2 License Renewal

Dear Mr. Tran:

The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of Natural Heritage (DCR) has searched its Biotics Data System for occurrences of natural heritage resources from the area outlined on the submitted map. Natural heritage resources are defined as the habitat of rare, threatened, or endangered plant and animal species, unique or exemplary natural communities, and significant geologic formations.

According to the information currently in our files, the Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus*, G3/S2/LE/LE) has been documented adjacent to the project site and the Ohio River shrimp (*Macrobrachium ohione*, G4/S1/NL/NL) has been historically documented adjacent to the project site. The Atlantic sturgeon is a large fish that reaches a maximum length of about 4.3 meters and may live for several decades. The adults migrate between fresh water spawning areas and salt water non-spawning areas. They feed primarily on benthic invertebrates and small fishes as available.

Stocks on the Atlantic slope have been severely reduced by overfishing (mainly late 1800s and early 1900s), pollution, sedimentation, and blockage of access to spawning areas by dams (Gilbert 1989, Burkhead and Jenkins 1991, Marine and Coastal Species Information System 1996). In Chesapeake Bay and elsewhere in the range, hypoxic events have increased and may degrade nursery habitat for Atlantic sturgeon (Secor and Gunderson 1997). Habitat loss due to dam construction and water pollution are thought to be major factors impeding full recovery of populations (Smith 1985, cited by Johnson et al. 1997; Gilbert 1989). A late maturation age and use of estuaries, coastal bays, and upstream areas of rivers for spawning and juvenile development make stocks vulnerable to habitat alterations in many areas (NatureServe 2012). Please note that this species is currently classified as endangered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) and by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF).

The Ohio River shrimp is known from large rivers of the Mississippi River drainage, and the James River (NatureServe, 2009). It occurs in lower salinity and tidal freshwater areas that have low velocity water (Conaway and Hrabik, 1997). They prefer borders of main channels especially when the borders are flooded and plant and animal material are available for foraging (Truesdale and Mermilliod, 1979). Ohio River shrimp occupy low visibility physical habitats that are also occupied by predatory fishes such as Catfish (Barko and Herzog, 2003) and use flooded terrestrial habitats for reproduction (Hobbs, 2001).

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State Parks • Soil and Water Conservation • Outdoor Recreation Planning
Natural Heritage • Dam Safety and Floodplain Management • Land Conservation

Threats to this species include waterway channelization, habitat and wetland loss, changes in river physiography, and reduced connectivity to floodplains (Logsdon, 1993; Hobbs, 2001; Barko and Herzog, 2003).

Due to the legal status of the Atlantic sturgeon, DCR recommends coordination with NOAA Fisheries and Virginia's regulatory authority for the management and protection of this species, the VDGIF, to ensure compliance with protected species legislation.

Please note this project is within a section of the James River that has been designated as a scenic river in the state of Virginia. Due to this designation, DCR recommends you contact Lynn Crump of the DCR-Division of Planning and Recreational Resources at 804-786-5054 or Lynn.Crump@dcv.virginia.gov.

Due to the legal status of the Atlantic sturgeon, DCR recommends coordination with NOAA Fisheries and Virginia's regulatory authority for the management and protection of this species, the VDGIF, to ensure compliance with protected species legislation.

There are no State Natural Area Preserves under DCR's jurisdiction in the project vicinity.

Under a Memorandum of Agreement established between the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) and the DCR, DCR represents VDACS in comments regarding potential impacts on state-listed threatened and endangered plant and insect species. The current activity will not affect any documented state-listed plants or insects.

New and updated information is continually added to Biotics. Please re-submit project information and map for an update on this natural heritage information if the scope of the project changes and/or six months has passed before it is utilized.

The VDGIF maintains a database of wildlife locations, including threatened and endangered species, trout streams, and anadromous fish waters that may contain information not documented in this letter. Their database may be accessed from <http://vafwis.org/fwis/> or contact Ernie Aschenbach at 804-367-2733 or Ernie.Aschenbach@dgif.virginia.gov. This project is located within 2 miles of a documented occurrence of a state listed animal. Therefore, DCR recommends coordination with the VDGIF, Virginia's regulatory authority for the management and protection of this species to ensure compliance with the Virginia Endangered Species Act (VA ST §§ 29.1-563 – 570).

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 804-225-2429. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project.

Sincerely,



Tyler Meader
Natural Heritage Locality Liaison

CC: Christine Vaccaro, NOAA Fisheries-Protected Species Division
Amy Ewing, VDGIF
Lynn Crump, DCR-DPRR

Literature Cited

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