

**United States Department of the Interior****FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**

Ecological Services
6669 Short Lane
Gloucester, Virginia 23061

April 27, 2000

Mr. Tony Banks
Virginia Power
Innsbrook Technical Center
5000 Dominion Boulevard
Glen Allen, Virginia 23060

Greetings:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has received your request to review the attached project for potential impacts to federally listed or proposed endangered and threatened species and designated critical habitat in Virginia pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). Attached are lists of species with federal status and species of concern that have been documented or may occur in the county(s) where your project is located. These lists were prepared by this office and are based on information obtained from previous surveys for rare and endangered species.

Due to the limited staff in this office, we are unable to review projects in a timely manner. Therefore, we request that you send the attached project to the following state agencies for review:

Plant Protection
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
P.O. Box 1163
Richmond, VA 23218
(804) 786-3515

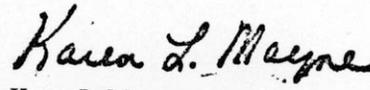
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
Environmental Services Section
P.O. Box 11104
Richmond, VA 23230
(804) 367-1000

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Division of Natural Heritage
217 Governor Street, 3rd Floor
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 786-7951

It is recommended that all of the agencies named above review the project because each maintains a different database and has differing expertise and/or regulatory responsibility. **IF ANY OF THESE AGENCIES DETERMINES THAT YOUR PROJECT MAY IMPACT A FEDERALLY LISTED, PROPOSED, OR CANDIDATE SPECIES OR CRITICAL HABITAT, PLEASE CONTACT THIS OFFICE; OTHERWISE, FURTHER CONTACT WITH THIS OFFICE IS NOT NECESSARY.**

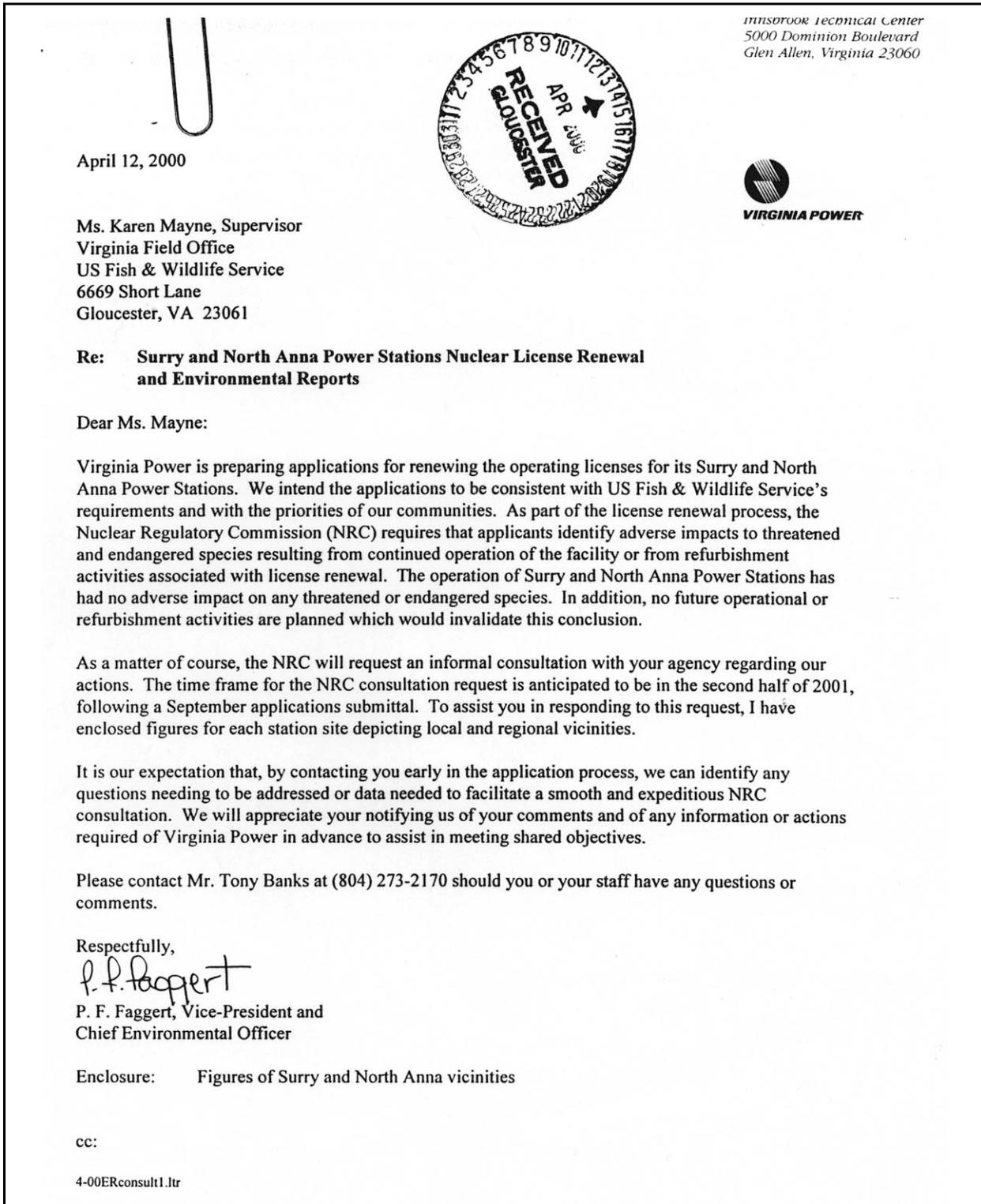
If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact William Hester of this office at (804) 693-6694, extension 134.

Sincerely,



Karen L. Mayne
Supervisor
Virginia Field Office

Enclosures



KEY

LE - federally listed endangered.

LT - federally listed threatened.

PE - federally proposed endangered.

PT - federally proposed threatened.

EX - believed to be extirpated in Virginia.

LE(S/A) - federally listed endangered due to similarity of appearance to a federally listed species.

LT(S/A) - federally listed threatened due to similarity of appearance to a federally listed species.

C - candidate species; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has enough information to list the species as threatened or endangered, but this action is precluded by other listing activities.

SOC - species of concern; those species that have been identified as potentially imperiled or vulnerable throughout their range or a portion of their range. These species are not protected under the Endangered Species Act.

C2 - former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service category 2 candidate species.

G - global rank; the species rarity throughout its total range.

G1 - extremely rare and critically imperiled with 5 or fewer occurrences or very few remaining individuals; or because of some factor(s) making it especially vulnerable to extinction.

G2 - very rare and imperiled with 6 to 20 occurrences or few remaining individuals; or because of some factor(s) making it vulnerable to extinction.

G3 - either very rare and local throughout its range or found locally (abundantly at some of its locations) in a restricted range; or vulnerable to extinction because of other factors. Usually fewer than 100 occurrences are documented.

G_T_ - signifies the rank of a subspecies or variety. For example, a G5T1 would apply to a subspecies of a species that is demonstrably secure globally (G5) but the subspecies warrants a rank of T1, critically imperiled.

G_Q - The taxon has a questionable taxonomic assignment.

SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY, VIRGINIA
Federally Listed, Proposed, and Candidate Species

<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
<u>INVERTEBRATES</u>		
Alasmidonta heterodon	Dwarf wedge mussel	LE
<u>VASCULAR PLANTS</u>		
Isotria medeoloides ¹	Small whorled pogonia	LT

Species of Concern

<u>INVERTEBRATES</u>		
Elliptio lanceolata	Yellow lance	G3
Lasmigona subviridis	Green floater	G3
Sigara depressa	Virginia Piedmont water boatmen	G1G3
Speyeria idalia	Regal fritillary	G3
<u>NON-VASCULAR PLANTS</u>		
Sphagnum carolinianum	Carolina peatmoss	G3

¹This species has been documented in an adjacent county and may occur in this county.

March 22, 1999
 Prepared by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Virginia Field Office

SURRY COUNTY, VIRGINIA
Federally Listed, Proposed, and Candidate Species

<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
<u>BIRDS</u>		
Haliaeetus leucocephalus ¹	Bald eagle	LT
<u>PLANTS</u>		
Aeschynomene virginica	Sensitive joint-vetch	LT

Species of Concern

INVERTEBRATES

Speyeria diana	Diana fritillary	G3
Stygobromus araeus	Tidewater interstitial amphipod	G2

VASCULAR PLANTS

Carex decomposita	Epiphytic sedge	G3
Chamaecrista fasciculata var. macrosperma	Marsh senna	G5T2
Desmodium ochroleucum	Creamflower tick-trefoil	G2G3
Rudbeckia heliopsis ²	Sun-facing coneflower	G2
Trillium pusillum var. virginianum	Virginia least trillium	G3T2

¹Nesting occurs in this county; concentrated shoreline use has been documented on the James River.

²Surveys needed within 5-miles of Prince George County species location.

March 22, 1999
 Prepared by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Virginia Field Office

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Bald Eagle

Haliaeetus leucocephalus



Description - The bald eagle occurs throughout the United States. It is a large bird-of-prey with dark brown plumage, a white head and tail, and a yellow bill, feet, and eyes. Juvenile eagles generally have a dark brown body, sometimes with white patches on the tail, belly, and underwings. The head and tail become completely white when full adult plumage is reached at four to five years of age.

Life History - The majority of Virginia's eagle population is found on the coastal plain. The bald eagle breeding season begins in mid-November when large nests are built (or the previous year's nest is repaired) usually in loblolly pine trees that are in close proximity to water. Eagles lay one to three eggs between mid-January and late March. In March, most eggs hatch and by June or July most young have fledged. However, the young will continue to use the nest for several weeks. In Virginia, during the summer and winter months, juvenile and nonbreeding adult eagles congregate along large rivers in areas with abundant food and little human

disturbance. During the day, these eagles feed and perch along the river shoreline. In late afternoon, they move inland to roost either singly or communally. Roosts are typically located away from human disturbance and near water and a food source. Bald eagles feed primarily on fish, but will also eat carrion, waterfowl, small mammals, snakes, and turtles.

Conservation - The bald eagle was federally listed as an endangered species in the Chesapeake Bay Region on March 11, 1967. On July 12, 1995, the bald eagle was reclassified to threatened throughout the 48 lower states because the population had increased due to the banning persistent pesticides, habitat protection, and other recovery activities. On July 6, 1999, the bald eagle was proposed for removal from the list of endangered and threatened wildlife in the lower 48 states. This action was proposed because the available data indicated that this species has recovered. The recovery is due in part to habitat protection and management actions initiated under the Endangered Species Act. It is also due to reduction in levels of persistent pesticides occurring in the environment. If and when the eagle is no longer protected by the Endangered Species Act, it will still be protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and state laws. Until the eagle is officially delisted, it will continue to receive protection pursuant to the Endangered Species Act. Bald eagles in the Chesapeake Bay are increasing. However, habitat destruction through urban and residential development and human

disturbance in nesting, roosting, and foraging habitats continue to be a threat.

What You Can Do To Help - If you know of a bald eagle nest on or near property proposed for clearing, development, or logging please contact one of the following agencies for assistance:

Virginia Department of Game and
Inland Fisheries
P.O. Box 11104
Richmond, Virginia 23230
(804) 367-1000

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
6669 Short Lane
Gloucester, Virginia 23061
(804) 693-6694

References

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
1990. Chesapeake Bay Region bald eagle recovery plan: first revision. Newton Corner, Massachusetts.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
1999. Proposed rule to remove the bald eagle in the lower 48 states from the list of endangered and threatened wildlife. Federal Register 64(128): 36453-36464.

Watts, B.D., K.W. Cline, and M.A. Byrd. 1994. The bald eagle in Virginia: An information booklet for land planners. The Center for Conservation Biology, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia.



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August 1999

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Sensitive Joint-Vetch

Aeschynomene virginica



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Description - The sensitive joint-vetch is an annual legume native to the eastern United States.

Populations currently exist in Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Virginia. The historical range for the species extended to Delaware and Pennsylvania. In Virginia, populations are found along the Potomac, Mattaponi, Pamunkey, Rappahannock, Chickahominy, and James Rivers and their tributaries.

This plant usually attains a height of three to six feet in a single growing season, but may grow as tall as eight feet. The flowers are yellow, streaked with red and the fruit is a pod, turning dark brown when ripe.

Life History - The joint-vetch occurs in fresh to slightly brackish tidal river systems, within the intertidal zone where populations are flooded twice daily. It typically occurs at the outer fringe of marshes or shores; its presence in marsh interiors may be a result of nutrient deficiencies, ice scouring, or muskrat

herbivory. The sensitive joint-vetch is found in localities where plant diversity is high and annual species are prevalent. Bare to sparsely vegetated substrates appear to be a habitat feature of critical importance for establishment and growth of this species. Plants flower from July through September and into October in some years. Fruits are produced from July through late October, concurrent with flowering.

Conservation - The sensitive joint-vetch was federally listed as a threatened species on June 19, 1992. Threats to the species include sedimentation, competition from non-native plant species, dams, dredging, filling, recreational activities, shoreline stabilization, shoreline structures, road and bridge construction, commercial and residential development, water withdrawal projects, water quality degradation, agricultural practices, introduced pest species, mining, timber harvest, over-visitation, declines in muskrat populations, rise in sea level (this may also be a result of natural cycles), and collection. Natural threats are often identified with disturbances, such as wave and ice action associated with severe storm events, competition, herbivory, channel migration, sea level rise and natural sedimentation processes. Adequate habitat conservation for this species will only be achieved through on-site protection of marshes supporting plant populations when coupled with protection of the natural ecological processes responsible for

creating and maintaining habitat for the sensitive joint-vetch.

What You Can Do To Help - Avoid the use of herbicides in or near waterways. If you are planning construction or stabilization activities along the shoreline in one of the counties indicated on the attached map, please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

References

Davison, S.E. and L.P. Bruderle. 1984. Element stewardship abstract for *Aeschynomene virginica* - sensitive joint vetch. The Nature Conservancy. Arlington, Virginia.

Hershner, C. and J.E. Perry. 1987. Population status of potentially threatened vascular plants from coastal plain tidal rivers in Virginia. College of William and Mary, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point, Virginia.

Rouse, G.D. 1994. Sensitive joint-vetch life history and habitat study, 1993 Field Season, Mattaponi and Rappahannock River systems, Virginia. Schnabel Environmental Services. Richmond, Virginia.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1995. Sensitive joint-vetch (*Aeschynomene virginica*) recovery plan. Hadley, Massachusetts.



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Dwarf Wedge Mussel

Alasmidonta heterodon

B. Windsor

Description - The dwarf wedge mussel has a spotty distribution in Atlantic coast drainage rivers and their tributaries from Canada to North Carolina. It is a small mussel whose shell rarely exceeds 1.5 inches in length. The shell outline is ovate or trapezoidal. The female shell is shorter, trapezoidal, and inflated in the back whereas the male shell is elongate, compressed, and ovate. The outer shell layer is brown to yellowish-brown, with greenish rays in young or pale-colored specimens. This mussel is unique in that it has two lateral teeth on its right valve and only one tooth on its left valve (opposite of all other North American mussel species).

Life History - The dwarf wedge mussel lives in shallow to deep rivers and creeks of various sizes where the current is slow to moderate. This mussel lives on muddy sand, sandy, and gravel stream bottoms that are nearly silt free. Like other freshwater mussels, this species is a filter feeder. It feeds on plankton collected from water

that is passed over its gills. Reproduction occurs sexually. Females carry eggs in their gills. During spawning, the male releases sperm into the water column and the sperm is taken into the female through the gills. The resulting larvae (known as glochidia) are released from the female into the water column and must attach to a fish host to survive. While attached to the fish host, development of the glochidia continues. Once metamorphosis is complete, the juvenile mussel drops off the fish host and continues to develop on the stream bottom. Fish hosts for this species include the mottled sculpin (*Cottus bairdi*), slimy sculpin (*Cottus cognatus*), tessellated darter (*Etheostoma olmstedii*), and johnny darter (*Etheostoma nigrum*).

Conservation - The dwarf wedge mussel was federally listed as an endangered species on March 14, 1990. The decline of this species is due to human degradation of habitat and water quality which have resulted in the continuing decline and subsequent loss of this species from previously occupied habitat. Threats to the species include agricultural, domestic, organic, and industrial pollution; impoundments that destroy habitat and cause silt deposits, low oxygen levels, and fluctuations in water levels and temperatures of the flooded area; and erosion and siltation from land clearing and construction of bridges or roads.

What You Can Do To Help - If you reside on property that borders a stream or other waterway, avoid using chemicals or fertilizers. To

help control erosion and reduce runoff, maintain a buffer of natural vegetation along streambanks. Install fencing to prevent livestock from entering streams to reduce trampling of mussels, siltation, and input of waste products. Protecting water quality is the most effective way to conserve mussels.

To find out more about the dwarf wedge mussel contact:

Virginia Department of Game and
Inland Fisheries
P.O. Box 11104
Richmond, Virginia 23230
(804) 367-1000

References

Michaelson, D.L. and R.J. Neves. 1995. Life history and habitat of the endangered dwarf wedgemussel *Alasmidonta heterodon* (Bivalvia:Unionidae). Journal of the North American Benthological Society 14(2):324-340.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1993. Dwarf wedge mussel (*Alasmidonta heterodon*) recovery plan. Hadley, Massachusetts.



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