



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
176 Croghan Spur Road, Suite 200
Charleston, South Carolina 29407

July 16, 2002

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Log No. 69400
Date Received JUL 19 2002
File Code _____

Dr. James L. Elmore
Department of Energy
Oak Ridge Operations Office
P.O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

Re: Preparing an Environmental Assessment to cover packaging, transportation, receipt, storage, and disposition of reusable Uranium materials potentially at the Savannah River Site, Barnwell County, South Carolina
FWS No. 4-6-02-I-298

Dr. Elmore:

We have reviewed the information received May 20, 2002 concerning the above-referenced project. The following comments are provided in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 661-667e), and section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543).

We are providing a list of the federally endangered (E) and threatened (T) and candidate (C) species which potentially occur in Barnwell County, South Carolina to aid you in determining the impacts your project may have on protected species. The list also includes species of concern under review by the Service. Species of concern (SC) are not legally protected under the Endangered Species Act, and are not subject to any of its provisions, including Section 7, until they are formally proposed or listed as endangered/threatened. We are including these species in our response for the purpose of giving you advance notification: These species may be listed in the future, at which time they will be protected under the Endangered Species Act. Therefore, it would be prudent for you to consider these species early in project planning to avoid any adverse effects.

<u>County</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Occurrences</u>
Barnwell	Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T	Known
	Wood stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	E	Possible
	Red-cockaded woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	E	Known
	Shortnose sturgeon	<i>Acipenser brevirostrum*</i>	E	Known
	Smooth coneflower	<i>Echinacea laevigata</i>	E	Known
	Pondberry	<i>Lindera melissifolia</i>	E	Possible

This is your future. Don't leave it blank. - Support the 2000 Census.

Canby's dropwort	<i>Lobelia boykinii</i>	SC	Known
Piedmont bishop-weed	<i>Macbridea caroliniana</i>	SC	Known
American chaffseed	<i>Hypericum adpressum</i>	SC	Known
Dwarf burhead	<i>Rana capito</i>	SC	Known
Awed meadowbeauty	<i>Astragalus michauxii</i>	SC	Known
Bog spicebush	<i>Lampsilis cariosa</i>	SC	Known
Boykin's lobelia	<i>Lobelia boykinii</i>	SC	Known
Carolina bogmint	<i>Macbridea caroliniana</i>	SC	Known
Creeping St. John's wort	<i>Hypericum adpressum</i>	SC	Known
Gopher frog	<i>Rana capito</i>	SC	Known
Sandhills milk-vetch	<i>Astragalus michauxii</i>	SC	Known
Yellow lampmussel	<i>Lampsilis cariosa</i>	SC	Known

In-house surveys should be conducted by comparing the habitat requirements for the attached listed species with available habitat types at the project site. Field surveys for the species should be performed if habitat requirements overlap with that available at the project site. Surveys for protected plant species must be conducted by a qualified biologist during the flowering or fruiting period(s) of the species. Please notify this office with the results of any surveys for the above list of species.

We also recommend you contact the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), Data Manager, Wildlife Diversity Section, Columbia, SC 29202, concerning known populations of federal and/or state endangered or threatened species, and other sensitive species in the project area. Additional habitat information may also be available from SCDNR. The National Marine Fisheries Service, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2449 should be contacted for consultation on species under their jurisdiction.

We reserve the right to comment on the Programmatic Environmental Assessment upon its completion. Your interest in ensuring the protection of endangered and threatened species and our nation's valuable wetland resources is appreciated. If you have further questions or require additional information, please contact Sandy Abbott of this office at (843) 727-4707 ext. 57. In future correspondence concerning the project, please reference FWS Log No 4-6-02-I-298.

Sincerely yours,



Roger L. Banks
Field Supervisor

RLB/SDA/km