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US FISH CRAS ES

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Department of Energy  
Savannah River Operations Office  
P.O. Box A  
Aiken, South Carolina 29802

DEC 04 2001

COPY

Mr. Roger Banks  
U. S. Department of the Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
P. O. Box 12559  
Charleston, SC 29422-2559

Dear Mr. Banks:

Re: Informal Consultation Under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act for the  
Surplus Plutonium Disposition - Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility

In July 1998, the Department of Energy notified the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of plans to locate the Surplus Plutonium Disposition Facilities at the Savannah River Site and solicited comment on the Surplus Plutonium Disposition Environmental Impact Statement. In your response (letter from Mr. R. Banks to Mr. M. Jones, September 8, 1998) you provided a listing of several species that are currently listed as endangered or threatened along with several species of concern that are known to exist in the Aiken, South Carolina area.

The Department of Energy has determined a preliminary site layout for the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility (one of the three surplus plutonium disposition facilities) which is illustrated on the enclosed map as site "2M". The Department of Energy also performed a survey of the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility site for wetlands, and endangered and threatened species or critical habitat. Enclosed is the survey report. We request your review and concurrence with the results of our survey.

Sincerely,

*A. B. Gould*  
A. B. Gould, Director  
Environmental Quality and Management C

kwd/aec  
Att.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has reviewed the plans for this proposed project. Based on our review and the information received, we concur with your determination that the proposed action:

will have no effect on resources under the jurisdiction of the USFWS that are currently protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et. seq.) (Act). Therefore, no further action is required under Section 7(a)(2) of the Act.

is not likely to adversely affect resources under the jurisdiction of the USFWS that are currently protected by the Act. Therefore, no further action is required under Section 7(a)(2) of the Act.

It is our opinion that the proposed action is not likely to have significant adverse wetland impacts. Please contact the Corps of Engineers for more information.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 176 Craglan Spur Road, Suite 200, Charleston, SC 29407, (843) 727-4707

USFWS Log No. 46-01-I-305 Date: 6-20-01  
*Paul Duncan*

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10-90

FAX TRANSMITTAL

Form with handwritten entries: To: Keith Dyer, From: Lori Duncan