



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Office of Conservation, Planning, and Community Affairs

Beverly Eaves Perdue
Governor

Linda Pearsall
Director

Dee Freeman
Secretary

June 1, 2012

Ms. Jennifer Davis, Senior Environmental Project Manager
Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Transmitted via email to: Jennifer.DavisFSME@nrc.gov

Dear Ms. Davis,

Thank you for contacting me about the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program comments on the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed General Electric-Hitachi Global Laser-based Uranium Enrichment Facility in Wilmington, North Carolina.

In a letter dated April 23, 2012, Dr. Harry LeGrand expressed concern that the project area identified in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was expanded in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), and that the enlarged area shown in Figure 3-12 overlaps the nationally significant Northeast Cape Fear River Floodplain Significant Natural Heritage Area (SNHA) and known populations of rare species. In subsequent conversation and email correspondence, you clarified that Figures 3-12, 3-13, and 3-14 outline the proposed GLE Facility project area within the larger Wilmington Site owned by GE, and that, although the larger Wilmington Site does overlap with the Significant Natural Heritage Area, only the GLE Facility portion of the Wilmington Site will be impacted by the proposed project. The GLE Facility portion does not overlap with the Significant Natural Heritage Area or known populations of rare species.

Based upon this clarifying information, we believe the issue has been satisfactorily addressed, and we do not anticipate impacts to the Northeast Cape Fear River Floodplain Significant Natural Heritage Area or the rare species which occur there. If these plans should change, or if GE should develop plans to impact the SNHA, we would appreciate the opportunity to review and provide information about the biological resources in the area. If you have any additional questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Linda Pearsall, Director
Conservation, Planning, and Community Affairs