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 Oconee Nuclear Station.

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Since 1931



63FR 50257
Sept. 21, 1998

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

An affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation

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November 6, 1998

Chief
Rules & Directives Branch
Division of Administrative Services
Mail Stop T-6, D 59
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

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US NRC

Dear Sirs:

The South Carolina Wildlife Federation would like to provide the following comments as part of the Environmental Scoping process for Duke Energy Corporation's Oconee Nuclear Station.

The South Carolina Wildlife Federation was established by sportsmen in 1931 originally as the South Carolina Game and Fish Association. Our organization was instrumental in the development of the National Wildlife Federation and became their state affiliate in 1946. We are a conservation organization representing people who care about preserving our outdoor heritage. Sportsmen, outdoor enthusiasts, gardeners, business and professional leaders, industry and South Carolinians from all walks of life support the Federation.

Our most recognized programs, in pursuing our mission of promoting wildlife habitat enhancement and natural resources conservation, are our habitat programs. We offer programs in Backyard Wildlife Habitat, Schoolyard Habitat and WAIT (Wildlife And Industry Together). In our effort to educate individuals, schools, industry and the general public about the various habitat programs, we have developed a long term and successful partnership with Duke.

Beginning in 1995, Oconee Nuclear Station (ONS) began successfully enhancing and protecting wildlife habitat on its 300 acre site. The process was based on the National Wildlife Federation's "Backyard Wildlife Habitat" program but expanded to involve interested employees from the site as well as outside partners. The enhancements include activities and habitat work ranging from protection and enhancement of wetlands to controlled burning of meadows, and are aimed at species ranging from waterfowl to butterflies.

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...PROMOTING WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION.

2711 Middleburg Drive, Suite 104 • Columbia, S.C. 29204 • 803-256-0670 FAX 803-256-0690 email:mail@scwf.org

In conjunction with the habitat work accomplished on-site, the employees at ONS work in partnership with SCWF and other local and statewide conservation organizations to conduct several annual youth conservation education events at the ONS site and its transmission corridors. These events emphasize the value of wildlife habitat protection and the ethics associated with outdoor sport activities.

This "on-site" wildlife habitat enhancement work is part of a Duke corporate process. It encourages partnerships and seeks opportunities to educate internal and external stakeholders on the methods and value of wildlife habitat protection and enhancement at all major Duke Power generation stations. As a result of Duke's commitment to quality habitat work and the extent and success of their efforts at ONS, the National Wildlife Federation selected ONS as the featured industrial site in its new, nationally distributed booklet and video promoting wildlife habitat at the workplace.

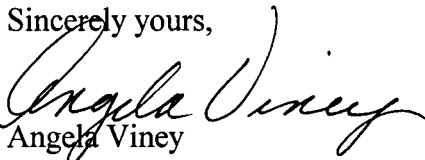
The success of Oconee's wildlife habitat program has served as the catalyst to form a unique program here in South Carolina entitled WAIT (Wildlife And Industry Together) - see enclosed brochure. Utilizing ONS as the "corporate model," our organization, along with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and the National Wild Turkey Federation has developed this program to certify industrial sites that have developed plans and programs to enhance and protect surplus lands for wildlife. The program was introduced in 1996 and now has nearly 40 industries working statewide to protect wildlife habitat.

Duke's efforts related to environmental stewardship have also been recognized through numerous awards. We have awarded Duke twice in the past decade with our top award -- Conservationist of the Year. The award was issued in 1992 for a partnership process that successfully developed a watershed conservation plan on Duke's holdings near the Bad Creek project in upper Oconee County and in 1997 for its long term efforts to successfully preserve for future generations the extensive mountain lands (approximately 60,000 acres) around Lake Jocassee in Pickens and Oconee Counties.

The South Carolina Wildlife Federation considers Duke's people and their programs as industrial models in environmental stewardship and looks forward to continuing a successful partnership toward the protection and enhancement of South Carolina's natural resources at its ONS site, its transmission Right of Ways, and throughout its South Carolina service area.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. Please call me if any additional information or clarification is needed.

Sincerely yours,


Angela Viney
Executive Director

The mission of the South Carolina Wildlife Federation is to advocate environmental stewardship by promoting wildlife habitat enhancement and natural resources conservation for today and tomorrow.

To meet the challenges of this mission, the Federation has teamed with individuals, schools and the corporate community to build a patchwork of habitats across our state. We want to make our state a haven for wildlife by encouraging habitats in backyards, schoolyards and on industrial and commercial lands. In addition, we have proved a moderate and trusted voice of conservation in the debate on issues which affect the rich and diverse natural resources in our state — a role which has been honored and respected since our founding in 1931.

The WAIT program is one component in a web of activities which include education, natural resource management and sportsmen's programs and have proven to be sustaining and enhancing to the conservation movement in our state. The support of our membership, comprised of generous individuals and corporations, along with funds raised through special events, fuels our unrelenting efforts to encourage government and the private sector to use our natural resources responsibly and to promote responsible outdoor ethics by those who engage in hunting, fishing, and all other natural resource based recreation.

By participating in WAIT, corporate landowners are taking an active role in teaching and advocating land management practices which enhance habitats and sustain wildlife in their corner of the world.

For more information on WAIT and other programs contact:

South Carolina Wildlife Federation
715 Woodrow Street
Columbia, SC 29205
(803) 771-4417 Fax 771-6120
email - scwf@igc.apc.org

Working together to educate & appreciate wildlife.



South Carolina Wildlife Federation
715 Woodrow Street, Columbia, SC 29205
(803) 771-4417 • Fax 771-6120

W.A.I.T.



*A program to benefit
wildlife,
communities and industries*

What is WAIT?

Wildlife and Industry Together (WAIT) is a program of the South Carolina Wildlife Federation in partnership with Duke Power, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and the National Wild Turkey Federation. WAIT is designed to encourage corporate land owners to integrate wildlife habitat needs into corporate land management decisions.

As South Carolina becomes increasingly developed, there is less land available for wildlife. Corporate land owners can offset habitat loss by devoting their under-utilized lands to wildlife. This is achieved by matching site employees who are interested in wildlife with community partners to develop habitat plans.

The WAIT program assists corporations, employees, facility neighbors and other groups who desire to develop environmental projects in partnership with each other.

WAIT:

- Aids corporate landowners in obtaining technical assistance to plan and implement wildlife habitat plans.
- Assists landowners in identifying potential community partners, activities and measures of success for the site.
- Provides a forum for participants to exchange success stories.
- Enhances habitat for native wildlife.



Why WAIT?

WAIT provides benefits to all involved in the initiative. Corporate participants experience:

- Cost savings through reduced land management costs.
- Enhanced environmental awareness among employees.
- New partnerships with community groups including schools, civic organizations, regulatory bodies and conservation groups.
- Positive environmental impact through habitat creation, preservation and stewardship.
- Enhanced reputation among the community as a responsible environmental steward.
- Positive coverage in partner publications through WAIT certification, signage display and related media events.

Resource agencies and conservation organizations meet their goals of enhanced wildlife habitat.

The WAIT Process

1. Contact the SCWF for input and to schedule a WAIT team visit if needed.
2. Form a team of interested employees and community partners.
3. Develop a draft WAIT plan.
4. Submit plan to SCWF for review and approval.
5. Begin implementation of plan.
6. Request WAIT certification. WAIT team schedules evaluation visit.
7. WAIT certificate awarded.

What is A Wait Plan?

A dynamic document that reflects an ongoing process where corporations collaborate with external groups to enhance, manage and protect wildlife habitat on corporate lands.

PROJECT IDEAS

- Butterfly Gardens
- Animal Nesting Boxes
- Meadow Creation
- Nature Trails
- Employee Environmental Education Events
- Wildlife Viewing Areas
- Lists of Site Wildlife / Wildflowers
- Created Wetlands / Ponds
- Wildlife Food Plots and Shrubs
- Hawk Perches

