



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Louisiana Ecological Services Field Office
646 CAJUNDOME BOULEVARD, SUITE 400
LAFAYETTE, LA 70506
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Consultation Code: 04EL1000-2016-SLI-0334

May 20, 2016

Event Code: 04EL1000-2016-E-00255

Project Name: Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit 3, License Renewal

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered and candidate species, as well as designated and proposed critical habitat that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and may be affected by your proposed project. The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is providing this list under section 7 (c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). Changes in this species list may occur due to new information from updated surveys, changes in species habitat, new listed species and other factors. Because of these possible changes, feel free to contact our office (337/291-3126) for more information or assistance regarding impacts to federally listed species. The Service recommends visiting the ECOS-IPaC site or the Louisiana Ecological Services website (www.fws.gov/lafayette) at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updated species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the habitats upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of Federal trust resources and to determine whether projects may affect Federally listed species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological

evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected (e.g. adverse, beneficial, insignificant or discountable) by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the “Endangered Species Consultation Handbook” at <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF> or by contacting our office at the number above.

Bald eagles have recovered and were removed from the List of Endangered and Threatened Species as of August 8, 2007. Although no longer listed, please be aware that bald eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) (16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*). The Service developed the National Bald Eagle Management (NBEM) Guidelines to provide landowners, land managers, and others with information and recommendations to minimize potential project impacts to bald eagles, particularly where such impacts may constitute “disturbance,” which is prohibited by the BGEPA. A copy of the NBEM Guidelines is available at: <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/es/baldeagle/NationalBaldEagleManagementGuidelines.pdf>. Those guidelines recommend: (1) maintaining a specified distance between the activity and the nest (buffer area); (2) maintaining natural areas (preferably forested) between the activity and nest trees (landscape buffers); and (3) avoiding certain activities during the breeding season. On-site personnel should be informed of the possible presence of nesting bald eagles within the project boundary, and should identify, avoid, and immediately report any such nests to this office. If a bald eagle nest occurs or is discovered within or adjacent to the proposed project area, then an evaluation must be performed to determine whether the project is likely to disturb nesting bald eagles. That evaluation may be conducted on-line at: <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/es/baldeagle>. Following completion of the evaluation, that website will provide a determination of whether additional consultation is necessary. The Division of Migratory Birds for the Southeast Region of the Service (phone: 404/679-7051, e-mail: SEmigratorybirds@fws.gov) has the lead role in conducting any necessary consultation. Should you need further assistance interpreting the guidelines or performing an on-line project evaluation, please contact this office.

Guidance for minimizing impacts to migratory birds for projects including communications towers (e.g. cellular, digital television, radio and emergency broadcast) can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/towers.htm> ; <http://www.towerkill.com>; and <http://fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/comtow.html>.

Activities that involve State-designated scenic streams and/or wetlands are regulated by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, respectively. We, therefore, recommend that you contact those agencies to determine their interest in proposed projects in these areas.

Activities that would be located within a National Wildlife Refuge are regulated by the refuge staff. We, therefore, recommend that you contact them to determine their interest in proposed projects in these areas.

Additional information on Federal trust species in Louisiana can be obtained from the Louisiana Ecological Services website at: www.fws.gov/lafayette or by calling 337/291-3100.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment



United States Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit 3, License Renewal

Official Species List

Provided by:

Louisiana Ecological Services Field Office
646 CAJUNDOME BOULEVARD, SUITE 400
LAFAYETTE, LA 70506
(337) 291-3100

Consultation Code: 04EL1000-2016-SLI-0334

Event Code: 04EL1000-2016-E-00255

Project Type: POWER GENERATION

Project Name: Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit 3, License Renewal

Project Description: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is reviewing an application from Entergy Operations, Inc., to allow Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit 3, to operate for an additional 20 years.

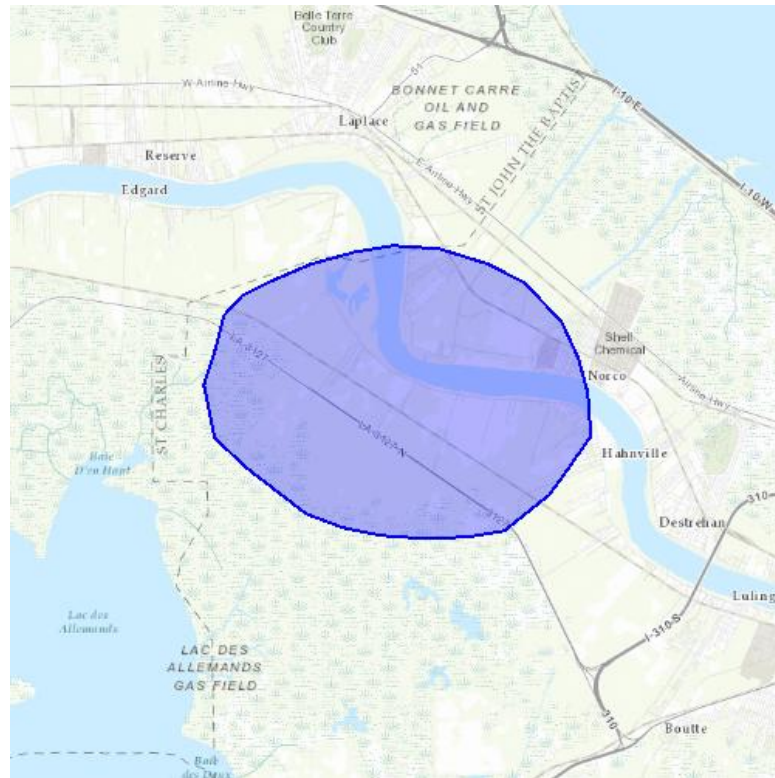
Please Note: The FWS office may have modified the Project Name and/or Project Description, so it may be different from what was submitted in your previous request. If the Consultation Code matches, the FWS considers this to be the same project. Contact the office in the 'Provided by' section of your previous Official Species list if you have any questions or concerns.



United States Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit 3, License Renewal

Project Location Map:



Project Coordinates: MULTIPOLYGON (((-90.51979064941406 29.971293566815902, -90.50073623657227 29.958504019413528, -90.4885482788086 29.954785818968286, -90.47704696655273 29.95270356597624, -90.46314239501953 29.951662423127154, -90.44906616210936 29.95225736323297, -90.43739318847656 29.95419089399186, -90.42984008789062 29.959247642814265, -90.42314529418945 29.964006700844646, -90.41662216186523 29.971442272802303, -90.40992736816405 29.980215532021614, -90.41061401367188 29.992110238973307, -90.41370391845703 30.001327656702326, -90.41919708251953 30.011436098225726, -90.43087005615234 30.02213803127762, -90.44254302978516 30.027488564694334, -90.45799255371094 30.0316498910357, -90.47309875488281 30.032541581093586, -90.48477172851562 30.03075819295543, -90.49884796142578 30.027488564694334, -90.51292419433594 30.02243529070962, -90.52082061767578 30.018868118707402, -90.52665710449217 30.013517120097877, -90.52906036376953 30.004895459546216, -90.5331802368164 29.994191666185216, -90.52940368652344 29.979620759272258, -90.51979064941406 29.971293566815902)))



United States Department of Interior
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Project name: Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit 3, License Renewal

Project Counties: St. Charles, LA | St. John the Baptist, LA



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Endangered Species Act Species List

There are a total of 3 threatened or endangered species on your species list. Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species. Critical habitats listed under the **Has Critical Habitat** column may or may not lie within your project area. See the **Critical habitats within your project area** section further below for critical habitat that lies within your project. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

Fishes	Status	Has Critical Habitat	Condition(s)
Atlantic sturgeon (Gulf subspecies) (<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus</i> (= <i>oxyrhynchus</i>) <i>desotoi</i>) Population: Entire	Threatened	Final designated	
Pallid sturgeon (<i>Scaphirhynchus</i> <i>albus</i>) Population: Entire	Endangered		
Mammals			
West Indian Manatee (<i>Trichechus</i> <i>manatus</i>) Population: Entire	Endangered	Final designated	



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Critical habitats that lie within your project area

There are no critical habitats within your project area.