

**From:** [Grange, Briana](#)  
**To:** [David OBrien - NOAA Federal](#)  
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**Subject:** Request to Initiate Abbreviated Essential Fish Habitat Consultation for Proposed Subsequent License Renewal of Surry Power Station in Virginia  
**Date:** Thursday, October 17, 2019 11:31:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [ENCLOSURE Table of NRC Effect Determinations for Federally Managed Species with Designated Essential Fish Habitat.pdf](#)

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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

Good morning Mr. O'Brien:

The purpose of this email is to notify you that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued a draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for the proposed subsequent license renewal of Surry Power Station, Units 1 and 2 (Surry) in Surry County, Virginia. This email describes the proposed action, summarizes the NRC's environmental review, and explains how the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) may submit public comments on the draft SEIS. This email also requests to initiate abbreviated EFH consultation with the NMFS in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976, as amended (MSA).

Proposed Action

Surry is a two-unit nuclear power plant located along the southern shore of the James River approximately 30 river miles upstream of the river's confluence with the Chesapeake Bay. The plant lies on an 840-acre site on Gravel Neck Peninsula in Surry County, Virginia. The site is situated 8 miles east-northeast of Surry, Virginia, and 7 miles south of Williamsburg, Virginia. Dominion Energy Virginia (Dominion) operates and maintains the plant. The NRC issued facility operating licenses for Surry in May 1972 (Unit 1) and January 1973 (Unit 2), and commercial operations began in December 1972 (Unit 1) and May 1973 (Unit 2). In 2003, the NRC issued renewed facility operating licenses authorizing an additional 20 years of plant operation through May 2032 (Unit 1) and January 2033 (Unit 2).

The NRC's current Federal action is the decision whether to issue subsequent renewed operating licenses for Surry authorizing an additional 20 years of operation. If the NRC grants Dominion renewed licenses, the company could continue to operate Surry until May 2052 (Unit 1) and January 2053 (Unit 2).

Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

In support of its review of the proposed action, the NRC staff prepared a draft SEIS to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA) and the NRC's environmental regulations at Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 51 that implement NEPA. The draft SEIS addresses the environmental impacts of the proposed action and relevant alternatives. The draft SEIS is available online at: [ML19274C676](#).

Essential Fish Habitat

As part of its environmental review, the NRC staff evaluated the potential impacts of Surry license renewal on EFH. Using the NMFS's EFH mapper, the NRC staff identified 10

federally managed species that may have EFH for certain life stages within the James River near the Surry site. These species and life stages are:

- black sea bass (*Centropristis striata*) (juveniles, adults)
- Atlantic herring (*Clupea harengus*) (juveniles, adults)
- little skate (*Leucoraja erinacea*) (adults)
- winter skate (*Leucoraja ocellata*) (adults)
- summer flounder (*Paralichthys dentatus*) (larvae, juveniles, adults)
- Atlantic butterflyfish (*Peprilus triacanthus*) (juveniles, adults)
- bluefish (*Pomatomus saltatrix*) (juveniles, adults)
- clearnose skate (*Raja eglanteria*) (juveniles, adults)
- windowpane flounder (*Scopthalmus aquosus*) (juveniles)
- red hake (*Urophycis chuss*) (eggs, larvae, juveniles, adults)

The NRC's EFH assessment appears within the following sections of the draft SEIS.

- **Section 3.8.1.4** describes the habitats, designated EFH characteristics, and diets of the federally managed species.
- **Section 4.8.1.4** evaluates the potential for the proposed action to affect the designated EFH and prey of the federally managed species.
- **Appendix C.2** describes the NRC's obligations under the MSA and relevant correspondence with the NMFS in connection with the NRC staff's review of the proposed action.

In Section 4.8.1.4 of the draft SEIS, the NRC staff finds that the proposed action would result in no more than minimal adverse effects on the designated EFH of the summer flounder (larvae, juveniles, and adults), Atlantic butterflyfish (juveniles and adults), bluefish (juveniles), and windowpane flounder (juveniles and adults) or on the prey base of the little skate (adults) or winter skate (adults), whose designated EFH lies downstream in the Chesapeake Bay. The proposed action would result in no adverse effects on the designated EFH for any life stages of the black sea bass, Atlantic herring, clearnose skate, or red hake.

In formulating these conclusions, the NRC staff evaluated the potential for EFH and the prey base of the relevant federally managed species to be affected by several stressors. The potential stressors that the staff evaluated include: physical removal of habitat through cooling water withdrawals; physical alteration of habitat through heated effluent discharges; chemical alteration of habitat through radionuclides and other contaminants in heated effluent discharges; physical removal of habitat through maintenance dredging; reduction in the prey base of the habitat; and effects from maintenance dredging.

For your reference, I have summarized the NRC staff's EFH determinations in the table attached to this email.

#### Request for Abbreviated EFH Consultation

The NRC staff submits the draft SEIS for your review and requests to initiate abbreviated EFH consultation in accordance with 50 CFR 600.920(h). The NRC respectfully requests your response within 30 days, as established at 50 CFR 600.920(h)(4). If you are unable to complete your review within this timeframe, I request that you contact me to discuss an alternate schedule. The NRC intends to report the outcome of this consultation within the final SEIS, which the NRC plans to issue in April 2020.

You may address your EFH response to me by email at [briana.grange@nrc.gov](mailto:briana.grange@nrc.gov) or by U.S. mail at the following address: Briana Grange, Conservation Biologist, Division of Materials and License Renewal, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Mail Stop: OWFN-11-F01, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

#### NEPA Comment Period and Public Meeting

In addition to the above request for ESA concurrence, the NRC staff is seeking general public comments on the draft SEIS pursuant to NEPA through December 10, 2019. You may submit NEPA comments either online or via U.S. mail.

- **Online:** Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2018-0280. Address questions about NRC docket IDs to Jennifer Borges at 301-287-9227 or [jennifer.borges@nrc.gov](mailto:jennifer.borges@nrc.gov).
- **U.S. Mail:** Address comments to: Office of Administration, Mail Stop TWFN-7-A60M, ATTN: Program Management, Announcements and Editing Staff, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

Alternately, if you wish to include both your EFH response and NEPA comments in one letter, you may address both to me at the email or mailing address identified in the previous section of this email.

The staff will also hold a webinar on the draft SEIS in November that will include a presentation on the preliminary findings and an opportunity for members of the public to submit oral comments. Webinar details will be announced in the near future.

#### Conclusion

Should you need to discuss the requests made in this email or any other matters related to Surry and EFH consultation, please reach out to me by phone at 301-415-1042 or email at [briana.grange@nrc.gov](mailto:briana.grange@nrc.gov).

Thank you,

Briana

#### **Briana A. Grange**

Conservation Biologist & ESA Consultation Coordinator

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Docket Nos.: 50-280 and 50-281

Enclosure: Table of NRC Effect Determinations for Federally Managed Species with Designated Essential Fish Habitat in the James River and Mouth of the Chesapeake Bay

**ADAMS Accession No.: ML19274B591**

CONCURRENCE				
OFFICE	PM:ELRB:REFS	BC:ELRB:REFS	OGC(NLO)	B:ELRB:REFS
NAME	TTran	BBeasley (KFolk for)	KGamin	BGrange
DATE	10/17/19	10/03/19	10/07/19	10/17/19
OFFICIAL RECORD COPY				



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

**NRC Effect Determinations for Federally Managed Species with Designated Essential  
Fish Habitat  
in the James River and Mouth of the Chesapeake Bay  
for the Proposed License Renewal of Surry Power Station, Units 1 and 2**

	<b>EFH Mapper Results<sup>(a)(b)</sup></b>	<b>Relevant Life Stages for EFH Analysis<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>EFH Effect Determination<sup>(c)</sup></b>
black sea bass	J, A	—	No adverse effects
Atlantic herring	J, A	—	No adverse effects
little skate	A	(P)	Minimal adverse effects
winter skate	A	(P)	Minimal adverse effects
summer flounder	L, J, A	L, J, A	Minimal adverse effects
Atlantic butterfish	J, A	J, A	Minimal adverse effects
bluefish	J, A	J	Minimal adverse effects
clearnose skate	J, A	—	No adverse effects
windowpane flounder	J	J, A	Minimal adverse effects
red hake	E, L, J, A	—	No adverse effects

<sup>(a)</sup> E = eggs; L = larvae; J = juveniles; A = adults; (P) = prey of EFH species.

<sup>(b)</sup> Essential Fish Habitat Mapper [online application]. Search Report for Latitude = 37°11'56" N, Longitude = 77°20'8" W. Search results available at [ML19140A276](#).

<sup>(c)</sup> The NRC staff makes its effect determinations for EFH in accordance with the language prescribed in the regulations implementing the Magnuson–Stevens Act at 50 CFR 600, Subpart K, “EFH Coordination, Consultation, and Recommendations.”

ENCLOSURE

10/17/19