



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
P. O. Drawer 1190
Daphne, Alabama 36526

IN REPLY REFER TO

April 14, 2004

Mr. R.M. Akridge
General Manager, Hydro
Southern Company Generation
and Energy Marketing
600 North 18th Street
P.O. Box 2641
Birmingham, AL 35291

Dear Mr. Akridge:

In response to your January 14, 2004 letter, Alabama Power Company (APC) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) met in Daphne, Alabama on February 18, 2004, to begin section 7 consultation associated with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing actions according to the steps outlined in the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The first step in the process is to determine whether any federally listed species or designated or proposed Critical Habitats are present in the action area. The project area includes those lands and water surrounding the two hydroelectric developments in the Black Warrior River Basin and include Lewis Smith and Bankhead Dams collectively licensed as the Warrior Project (FERC 2165-015).

As you know, there are extant populations, as well as proposed Critical Habitat for several federally listed species within the project area. We have reviewed the list you provided (your Attachment B) and edited it according to our records (see Attachment A and Table 1). We welcome the opportunity to initiate informal ESA section 7 consultation with you.

As always, we appreciate APC's desire and willingness to protect and enhance the unique ecological characteristics of the Warrior River Basin. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Patric Harper at (251) 441-5857 or by e-mail at patric_harper@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

Larry E. Goldman
Field Supervisor

Attachments

cc: Ron McKittrick, FERC
Jon Hornsby, ADCNR

Table 1. Federally listed species occurring within the project boundary of the Warrior River Hydroelectric Project ¹.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Counties	Population Status ²	Federal Status ³
Birds				
bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Cullman, Jefferson, Lawrence, Tuscaloosa, Walker, Winston	E	
red-cockaded woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	Cullman, Jefferson, Lawrence, Tuscaloosa, Walker, Winston	E	E
Fish				
Cahaba shiner	<i>Notropis cahabae</i>	Jefferson	E	E
Mussels				
orange-nacre mucket	<i>Lampsilis perovalis</i>	Lawrence, Winston	E	TPCH
fine-lined pocketbook	<i>Lampsilis altilis</i>	Lawrence, Walker, Winston	E	T
Alabama moccasinshell	<i>Medionidus acutissimus</i>	Lawrence, Winston	E	PCH
Coosa moccasinshell	<i>Medionidus parvulus</i>	Winston	E	EPCH
dark pigtoe	<i>Pleurobema furvum</i>	Lawrence, Winston	E	EPCH
ovate clubshell	<i>Pleurobema perovatum</i>	Lawrence, Walker, Winston	E	EPCH
triangular kidneyshell	<i>Ptychobranthus greenii</i>	Lawrence, Walker, Winston	E	EPCH
Plants				
Alabama streak-sorus fern	<i>Thelypteris pilosa var. alabamensis</i>	Winston	E	T
Kral's waterplantain	<i>Sagittaria secundifolia</i>	Winston	E	
Mammals				
Indiana bat	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	Winston	E	E
Amphibians				
Black Warrior waterdog	<i>Necturus alabamensis</i>	Cullman, Jefferson, Lawrence, Tuscaloosa, Walker, Winston	E	C
Reptiles				
Flattened musk turtle	<i>Sternotherus depressus</i>	Cullman, Jefferson, Lawrence, Tuscaloosa, Walker, Winston	E	T

Warrior River¹ -includes the Lewis Smith and Bankhead developments.
Population Status² – N (possibly extirpated within project boundary); E (extant)
Federal Status³ – E (listed as Endangered); T (listed as Threatened); EPCH (listed as
Endangered and has Proposed Critical Habitat); TPCH (listed as Threatened and has Proposed
Critical Habitat); C (Candidate).

Note that two species were deleted from your Attachment B (inflated heelsplitter and southern clubshell)

ATTACHMENT A: Federally listed species by county.

Cullman

- T - Flattened musk turtle *Sternotherus depressus*
- E - Ovate clubshell mussel *Pleurobema perovatum*
- E - Triangular kidneyshell mussel *Ptychobranthus greenii*
- T - Fine-lined pocketbook mussel *Lampsilis altilis*
- C - Black Warrior waterdog *Necturus alabamensis*

Jefferson

- T - Flattened musk turtle *Sternotherus depressus*
- E - Watercress darter *Etheostoma nuchale*
- E - Cahaba shiner *Notropis cahabae*
- PE - Vermilion darter *Etheostoma chermocki*
- E - Upland combshell mussel *Epioblasma metastrata*
- T - Fine-lined pocketbook mussel *Lampsilis altilis*
- E - Triangular kidneyshell mussel *Ptychobranthus greenii*
- T - Orange-nacre mucket mussel *Lampsilis perovalis*
- E - Plicate rocksnail *Leptoxis plicata*
- E - Leafy prairie clover *Dalea foliosa*
- C - Black Warrior waterdog *Necturus alabamensis*

Lawrence

- E - Gray bat *Myotis grisescens*
- E - Indiana bat *Myotis sodalis*
- E - Red-cockaded woodpecker *Picoides borealis*
- E - Pink mucket pearly mussel *Lampsilis abrupta*
- T - Alabama moccasinshell mussel *Medionidus acutissimus*
- T - Fine-lined pocketbook mussel *Lampsilis altilis*
- T - Orange-nacre mucket mussel *Lampsilis perovalis*
- E - Dark pigtoe mussel *Pleurobema furvum*
- E - Triangular kidneyshell mussel *Ptychobranthus greenii*
- E - Rough pigtoe mussel *Pleurobema plenum*
- E - Leafy prairie clover *Dalea foliosa*
- T - Lyrate bladder-pod *Lesquerella lyrata*
- T - Eggert's sunflower *Helianthus eggertii* (P)

Tuscaloosa

- E - Red-cockaded woodpecker *Picoides borealis*
- T - Flattened musk turtle *Sternotherus depressus*
- E - Southern clubshell mussel *Pleurobema decisum*
- E - Dark pigtoe mussel *Pleurobema furvum*
- E - Ovate clubshell mussel *Pleurobema perovatum*
- T - Alabama moccasinshell mussel *Medionidus acutissimus*
- T - Inflated heelsplitter mussel *Potamilus inflatus*
- T - Fine-lined pocketbook mussel *Lampsilis altilis*
- T - Orange-nacre mucket mussel *Lampsilis perovalis*
- C - Black Warrior waterdog *Necturus alabamensis*
- C - White fringeless orchid *Platanthera integrilabia*

Walker

- T - Flattened musk turtle *Sternotherus depressus*
- E - Ovate clubshell mussel *Pleurobema perovatum*
- E - Triangular kidneyshell mussel *Ptychobranhus greenii*
- T - Fine-lined pocketbook mussel *Lampsilis altilis*
- C - Black Warrior waterdog *Necturus alabamensis*

Winston

- T - Flattened musk turtle *Sternotherus depressus*
- E - Red-cockaded woodpecker *Picoides borealis*
- T - Orange-nacre mucket mussel *Lampsilis perovalis*
- T - Alabama moccasinshell mussel *Medionidus acutissimus*
- E - Coosa moccasinshell mussel *Medionidus parvulus*
- E - Dark pigtoe mussel *Pleurobema furvum*
- E - Triangular kidneyshell mussel *Ptychobranhus greenii*
- T - Fine-lined pocketbook mussel *Lampsilis altilis*
- E - Ovate clubshell mussel *Pleurobema perovatum*
- T - Kral's water-plantain *Sagittaria secundifolia*
- T - Alabama streak-sorus fern *Thelypteris pilosa* var. *alabamensis*
- C - Black Warrior waterdog *Necturus alabamensis*
- C - White fringeless orchid *Platanthera integrilabia*

Notes:

- Bald eagles *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, red-cockaded woodpeckers *Picoides borealis* and American peregrine falcons *Falco peregrinus anatum* may occur in any county, if suitable habitat exists.