



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Southeast Regional Office  
263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505  
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/region/southeast>

F/SER31:AH

Vince Yearick  
Director, Division of Hydropower Licensing  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20426

Dear Mr. Yearick:

This letter is in reference to your December 6, 2022 inquiry regarding the status of the formal consultations pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for the Saluda Hydroelectric Project (Project No. 516-459) and the Augusta Canal Project (Project No. 11810-004). Both documents are undergoing internal review. We anticipate issuing the biological opinion for the Saluda Hydroelectric Project by the end of February 2023 and the biological opinion for the Augusta Canal project by the end of June 2023.

We look forward to continued cooperation with the FERC in conserving our endangered and threatened resources. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Andrew Herndon, Atlantic and Shortnose Sturgeon Recovery Coordinator, at (727) 824-5312 or by e-mail at [andrew.herndon@noaa.gov](mailto:andrew.herndon@noaa.gov).

Sincerely,

David Bernhart  
Assistant Regional Administrator for Protected  
Resources

File: 1514-22n

