



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th 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.

Sincerely,

David Bernhart
Assistant Regional Administrator for Protected
Resources

File: 1514-22n

