

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION  
PUBLIC NOTICE  
WATERSHED PROTECTION BRANCH

July 9, 2025  
Notice Issue Date

Appling/Toombs County  
City / County

August 8, 2025  
Notice Close Date

NRC Docket Nos. 50-321 & 50-366  
Control Number(s)

Sec. 401 Water Quality Certification  
Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant – Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) License Renewal

This notice is issued to inform the public that a request has been received for a water quality certification (WQC) in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (see below). The public is invited to comment on the proposed activity (NRC License Renewal) during this 30-day period. Information pertaining to the project is attached to this notice, and additional information is also available for review at:

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML25135A390>. Since the request is specific to 401 WQC, only comments pertaining to water quality are considered under the certification review process. Comments may be submitted via e-mail to: [EPD.WQC@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:EPD.WQC@dnr.ga.gov). Comments may also be provided in writing to: Georgia EPD, Wetlands Unit, 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. SE, Suite 1052, Atlanta, GA 30334. Include the words “Water Quality Certification Comment” and the Control Number(s) in the e-mail subject line, if emailed, or on the top of the first page of printed comments, if mailed via the postal service, to ensure that your comments will be forwarded to the appropriate staff. If you have any questions, please contact the EPD Wetlands Unit Manager at [david.hedeen@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:david.hedeen@dnr.ga.gov).

Type of Permit Application: 401 Water Quality Certification

Applicable Law: Federal Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1341

Applicable Rules: 40 CFR part 121

Description and Location of Proposed Activity:

Southern Nuclear Company is proposing the subsequent renewal of the Hatch Nuclear Plant (HNP) Operating Licenses for an additional 20 years. HNP is a two-unit electrical generating plant owned by Georgia Power Company, Oglethorpe Power Corporation, Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia, and Dalton Utilities. Each unit utilizes a Nuclear Steam Supply System and has a net power output of 876 MWe (Unit 1) and 883 MWe (Unit 2). HNP is located on the Altamaha River at approximately river mile 116.4. This facility is a nuclear power plant and discharges cooling tower blowdown, low volume wastewater, sanitary wastewater, intake screen/strainer backwash, and industrial stormwater. Those discharges are subject to other EPD permitting requirements.

Name and Address of Permit Applicant: James M. DeLano  
Environmental Affairs Manager  
Southern Nuclear Company  
3535 Colonnade Parkway  
BIN N-218-EC  
Birmingham, AL 35243

May 16, 2025

Log: EV-25-0194

**Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant**  
**Subsequent License Renewal Application**  
**Request for Water Quality Certification**

David Hedeem  
Manager - Wetlands Unit  
Georgia Environmental Protection Division  
Watershed Protection Branch  
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive  
Suite 1470-A, East Tower  
Atlanta, GA 30334

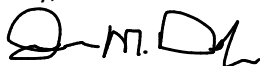
Dear Mr. Hedeem

On May 15, 2025, Southern Nuclear Operating Co., Inc. (SNC) submitted an application to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for the renewal of the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant (HNP) Facility Operating Licenses for an additional 20 years. The current operating licenses for HNP Unit 1 (DPR-57) and Unit 2 (NPF-5) will expire in 2034 and 2038, respectively. The renewed licenses would allow Unit 1 to operate until August 2054, and Unit 2 until June 2058.

Pursuant to 40 CFR Part 121, SNC requests certification from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) for the license renewals. To support this request, the HNP Subsequent License Renewal Application is available on the NRC's website under ML25135A392. SNC's Environmental Report, included with the application, contains all readily available water quality-related materials that informed the development of the application. Additional relevant project information was provided to GA EPD on August 26, 2024, along with the required documentation associated with the July 29, 2024 pre-filing meeting. SNC's August 26, 2024, letter is included as Enclosure One for your convenience. The information in this Enclosure remains true and correct and may be used to support the EPD review process.

As required by NRC's regulations under 10 CFR 51.71 and Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401, the NRC requires that applicants for renewal of an operating license provide the NRC with a water quality certification from the State. As such, SNC greatly appreciates your prompt attention to this certification request. If you have any questions regarding the contents of this letter, please contact Jim DeLano (205-440-09395 or [jmdelano@southernco.com](mailto:jmdelano@southernco.com)).

Sincerely,



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JIM DELANO (May 16, 2025 14:29 CDT)

James M. DeLano  
Environmental Affairs Manager

SNC Hatch Rtype: CCSR1.001

Enclosure 1: Confirmation of Pre-Filing Meeting Discussion, EV-24-0864, August 26, 2024.  
cc: Zeng, Wei, Water Supply Program

ENCLOSURE 1

HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT – SUBSEQUENT LICENSE RENWAL APPLICATION  
CONFIRMATION OF PRE-FILING MEETING DISCUSSIONS

August 26, 2024

Log: EV-24-0864

**Hatch Nuclear Plant**  
**Subsequent License Renewal Application**  
**Confirmation of Pre-Filing Meeting Discussion**

David Hedeem  
Manager – Wetlands Unit  
Georgia Environmental Protection Division,  
Watershed Protection Branch  
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive  
Suite 1470-A, East Tower  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Mr. Hedeem:

As you are aware, Southern Nuclear Operating Co., Inc. (SNC) is preparing an application to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for the subsequent renewal of the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant (HNP) Facility Operating Licenses for an additional 20 years. SNC expects to submit the subsequent license renewal application, inclusive of its environmental review, to the NRC in Third Quarter 2025.

Relevant to 10 CFR §51.45(d) of NRC's regulations, and as further specified under the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401, the NRC requires that applicants for renewal of an operating license provide the NRC with a water quality certification from the State. As such, SNC will request certification from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division immediately following the SLR application submittal to the NRC. Consistent with 40 CFR 121, a Pre-Filing meeting was requested on July 1, 2024, and held on July 29, 2024.

As part of the original licensing of the facility, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GAEPD) issued a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for HNP on December 22, 1972. HNP currently operates under individual NPDES Permit No. GA0004120, Surface Water Withdrawal Permit No. 001-0690-01 and Industrial General Permit GAR05000 Notice of Intent No. GAIS 000012630. Together, these permits ensure that HNP operations meet applicable water quality standards. HNP complies with these permits and will continue to operate within the limits of the permits as well as any future applicable permits and conditions. There are no new permits or permit modifications for discharge to jurisdictional waters being sought for HNP in conjunction with the plant's NRC subsequent license renewal application. Likewise, HNP does not anticipate any refurbishment that will result in a material change to plant discharges that could impact water quality. As was discussed in the pre-filing meeting and in support of the future request for certification, SNC has enclosed additional relevant background information for your consideration.

SNC respectfully requests GAEPD provide written confirmation of receipt of this correspondence. SNC plans to include a copy of this letter and your response in the final Environmental Report (ER), which will

be submitted to the NRC as a part of the HNP license renewal application. Therefore, a response by October 1, 2024, is requested. SNC will continue to communicate with you on the expected timing of the request for certification.

If you have any questions regarding the contents of this letter, please contact Amy Aughtman at 205-992-7006 or AGAUGHTM@southernco.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. M. DeLano". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" and last name "DeLano" clearly distinguishable.

James M. DeLano  
Environmental Affairs Manager

SNC Hatch Rtype: CCSLR1.001

cc: Whitney Fenwick, Wastewater Regulatory Program  
Zeng, Wei, Water Supply Program

Enclosure(s) –  
Relevant Information  
Figure 1. HNP Site Map  
Figure 2. HNP 6-Mile Vicinity

**Enclosures:**

**Enclosure 1 - Relevant Information**

**Enclosure 2 - Figure 1 – HNP Site Map**

**Enclosure 3 - Figure 2 – HNP 6-Mile Vicinity Map**

## Enclosure 1

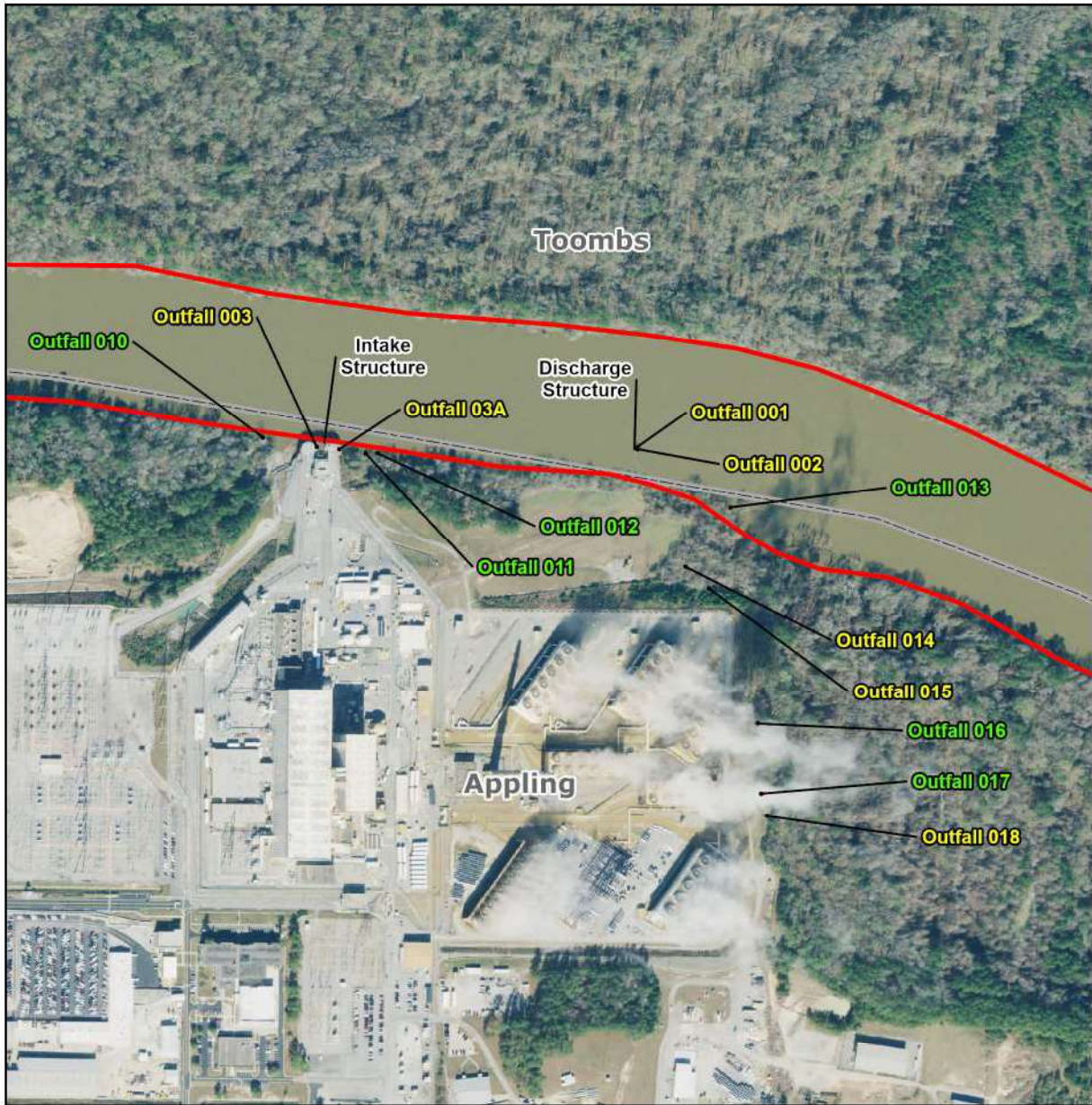
(1) Description of the proposed activity:

SNC is proposing the subsequent renewal of the HNP Operating Licenses for an additional 20 years. HNP is a two-unit electrical generating plant owned by Georgia Power Company (GPC), Oglethorpe Power Corporation, Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia, and Dalton Utilities. Each unit utilizes a Nuclear Steam Supply System (NSSS) and has a net power output of 876 MWe (Unit 1) and 883 MWe (Unit 2). HNP is located on the Altamaha River at approximately river mile 116.4. This facility is a nuclear power plant and discharges cooling tower blowdown, low volume wastewater, sanitary wastewater, intake screen/strainer backwash, and industrial stormwater.



(2) Specific location of any discharge(s) that may result from the proposed activity:

The locations of the external outfalls are shown below.



### Legend

 HNP Site

Note:

- Yellow outfall locations denote external outfall locations under NPDES Permit No. GA0004120
- Green outfall locations denote the State of Georgia NPDES Industrial Storm Water General Permit



 Feet  
0 400 800

## Enclosure 1

- (3) a map or diagram of the proposed activity site:

The location of HNP is depicted in the enclosed Figure 1 – HNP Site Map and Figure 2 – HNP 6-Mile Vicinity Map.

- (4) a description of current activity site conditions:

See description in (1)

- (5) the date(s) on which the proposed activity is planned to begin and end and, if known, the approximate date(s) when any discharge(s) may commence:

The existing renewed operating licenses for HNP Unit 1 (DPR-57) and Unit 2 (NPF-5) will expire in 2034 and 2038, respectively. The subsequent renewed licenses would allow Unit 1 to operate until August 2054, and Unit 2 until June 2058. HNP is authorized to operate under NPDES Permit GA0004120 (Effective April 1, 2023), Surface Water Withdrawal Permit No. 001-0690-01 (effective April 16, 2020) and Industrial General Permit NPDES GAR05000 Notice of Intent No. GAIS 000012630 (effective June 1, 2022). SNC operates the plant in compliance with these permits and would continue to operate within the limits and conditions of these permits, as well as any future applicable water quality permits and conditions. Discharges consist of process wastewater and industrial storm water. SNC is proposing no material change to the project that could impact water quality, including changes to the magnitude or nature of the discharges. Should a change in the discharge be required, SNC will coordinate with GA EPD as required by applicable statutes.

- (6) a list of all other Federal, interstate, Tribal, state, territorial, or local agency authorizations required for the proposed activity and the current status of each authorization:

### Required Authorizations

Agency	Authority	Requirement	Number / Status
NRC	Atomic Energy Act [10 CFR Part 50]	HNP license to operate Unit 1	50-321/Active – renewed every 20 years
NRC	Atomic Energy Act [10 CFR Part 50]	HNP license to operate Unit 2	50-366/ Active – renewed every 20 years
GA EPD	Clean Water Act Section 401 [33 USC 1341]	Certification of water quality standards	N/A/ Active
USDOT	49 USC 5180 [49 CFR Part 107, Subpart G]	Hazardous Materials Registration	061523550376F/ Active - renewed annually in June

## Enclosure 1

Agency	Authority	Requirement	Number / Status
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)	South Carolina Radioactive Waste Transportation and Disposal Act No. 429 of 1980	License to ship radioactive material	0039-10-23/ Active – renewed annually in December
Utah Department of Environmental Quality Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control	R313-26 and R313-19-100 and R313-14 of the Utah Administrative Code	Generator Site Access Permit	201001245/ Active – renewed annually in December
State of Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Division of Radiological Health	TDEC Rule 0400-20-10-.32	License to ship radioactive material	T-GA001-L23/ Active – renewed annually in December
GA EPD	Georgia Water Quality Control Act (Georgia Laws 1964, p.416) Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 US C. 1251 <i>et seq.</i> )	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit	GA0004120/ Active – renewed every 5 years
GA EPD	Georgia Water Quality Control Act Federal Clean Water Act	Industrial General Permit	GA050000 NOI GAIS 000012630/ Active – renewed every 5 years with General Permit issuance
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1344)	Maintenance Dredge Permit	SAS-1994-03873/ Active – renewed every 10 years
GA EPD	Georgia Safe Drinking Water Act of 1977, OCGA 12-5-170 <i>et seq.</i> , Rules for Safe Drinking Water 391-3-5	Permit	PG0010005/ Active – renewed every 10 years

Enclosure 1

Agency	Authority	Requirement	Number / Status
GA EPD	Georgia Safe Drinking Water Act of 1977, OCGA 12-5-170 et seq., Rules for Safe Drinking Water 391-3-5	Permit	NG00100011/ Active – renewed every 10 years
USFWS	16 U.S.C. 703-712, 50 CFR Part 13, 50 CFR 21.27	Migratory Bird Special Purpose Utility Permit	MB745135/ Active – renewed every 2 years
EPA	Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act [42USC 6912]	Hazardous Waste Generator Registration	GAD000612564/ Active – renewed every 2 years
GA EPD	Georgia Air Quality Act, OCGA, Section 12-9-1 et seq, Rules, Chapter 391-3-1	Air Emission Permit	4911-001-0001-S-05-0/ Active
GA EPD	Georgia Water Quality Control Act, (OCGA § 12-5-20 et seq.) and Regulations for Water Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-6	Surface Water Withdrawal Permit	001-0690-01/ Active – renewed every 10 years
GA DNR	Georgia Water Quality Control Act, OCGA § 27-2-12	Scientific Collecting Permit	1000524483/ Active – renewed annually
GA EPD	Georgia Solid Waste Management Act, Act 1486, Georgia Laws of 1972 as amended	Solid Waste	001-004D(L)/ Active
GA EPD	Provisions of the Groundwater Use Act, OCGA § 12-5-90 et seq., Rules, Chapter 391-3-1	Permit to Use Groundwater	001-0001/ Active – renewed every 10 years

Enclosure 1

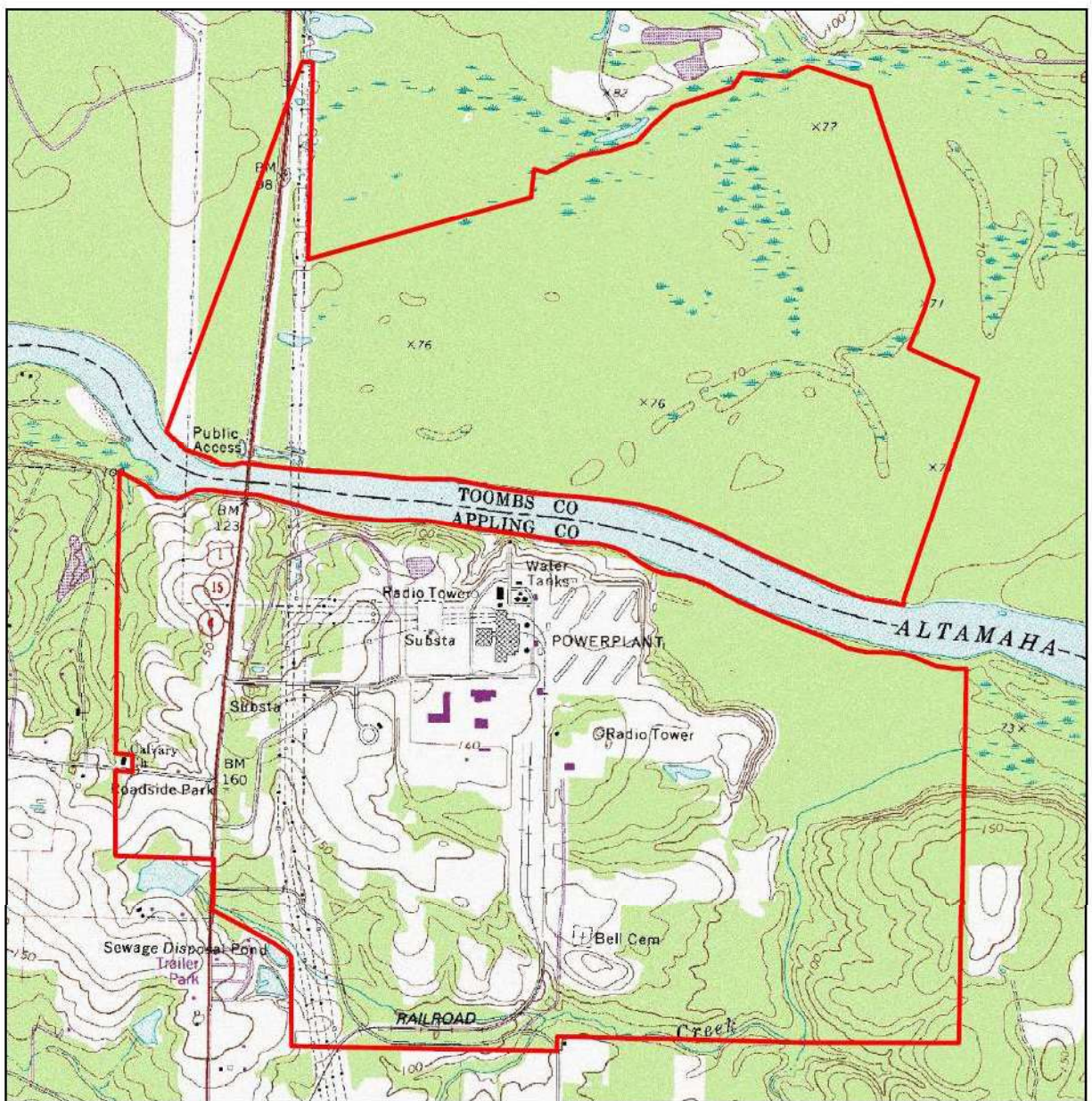
Agency	Authority	Requirement	Number / Status
GA State Board of Examiners for Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts	Georgia R&R Chapter 750-3-.01	Certification	Operator ID: W2-015383/ Active – renewed every 2 years

- (7) documentation that a pre-filing meeting request was submitted to the certifying authority:

SNC requested a pre-filing meeting via email on July 1, 2024. SNC and GA EPD conducted the pre-filing meeting on July 29, 2024.



Figure 1 – HNP Site Map



**Legend**

 HNP Site




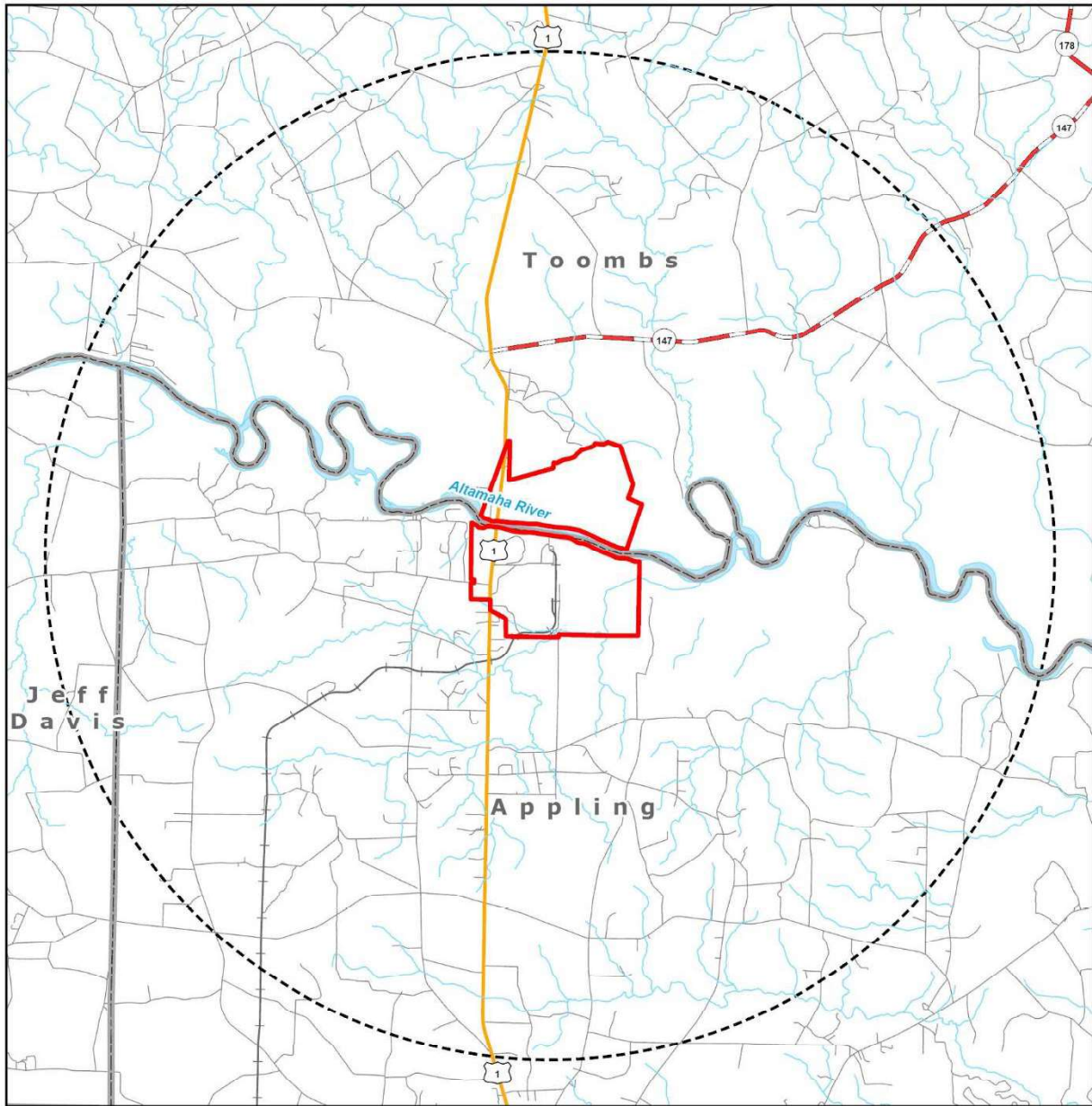
 Miles  
0 0.25 0.5

Figure 2 – HNP 6-mile Vicinity Map



**Legend**

- |                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| • Community     | Surface Water |
| — U.S. Route    | HNP Site      |
| — State Highway | 6-Mile Radius |
| — Local Road    | County        |
| — Railroad      | Place         |



0 2 4 Miles