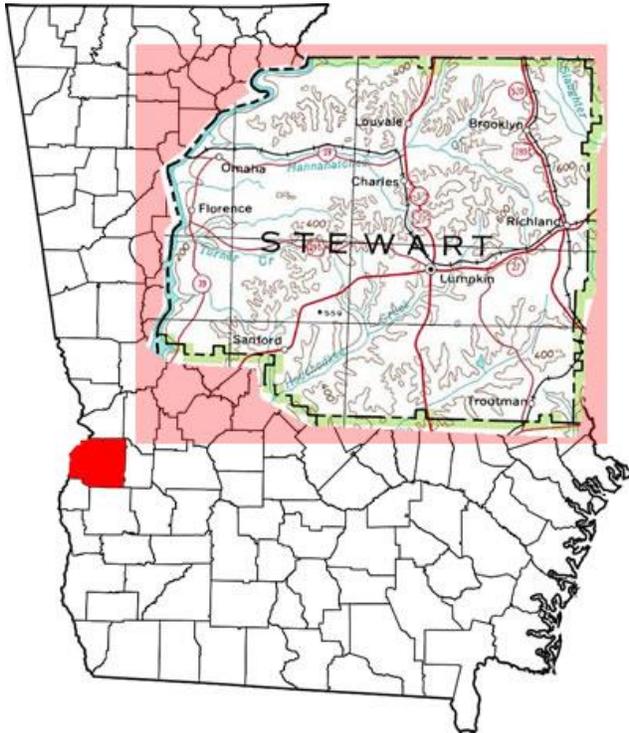


Company evaluating site in Stewart County for new nuclear plant

Wednesday, March 23, 2016 – Even though building a third nuclear power plant in Georgia is a long way from happening, Georgia Power has begun evaluating a site in southwest Georgia to ensure the company has the option to construct one in the future.



Stewart County, Ga.

In an interview Monday, Georgia Power Chairman, President and CEO Paul Bowers emphasized that the company has not committed to build another nuclear plant. However, Georgia Power must take steps now to preserve the option, especially given the time required to obtain the necessary license and other approvals, he said.

"Making this decision requires thorough and detailed analysis and years of effort to gain the necessary regulatory approvals," Bowers said. "We continue to believe that nuclear energy is a vital part of a diversified generation mix for our customers and the state of Georgia."

The company has begun preliminary work, including geological and water studies, on a 7,000-acre site in Stewart County. The site is next to the Chattahoochee River, south of Columbus, Georgia.

As the state continues to grow and more people move to Georgia, increased power demands will dictate a need for new baseload capacity, Bowers said. In addition, continuing regulatory pressure to limit carbon dioxide emissions from coal-fired power plants could make nuclear an even more attractive option for new capacity.

As the company learned with Plant Vogtle units 3 and 4, it takes about seven years to secure a combined Construction and Operating License from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and then another decade after that to build a nuclear plant. At the earliest, it would be sometime after 2030 before a new nuclear plant would be built, Bowers said.

"Our focus is to provide clean, safe, reliable and affordable energy for our customers – that will never change" Bowers said. "The Stewart County evaluation is an effort to ensure we hold true to that focus."