

### Gopher Tortoise

- *The letter states that “While not listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA in Georgia, the gopher tortoise is a candidate species.”*
- Does being designated a candidate species require the same protections as being listed as threatened or endangered under ESA?

### Eastern Indigo Snake

- If no indigo snakes have been observed on the proposed mining site, is there a certain standard or confidence level the FWS utilizes to assess the possibility of occurrence of a particular species?

### General Questions

- It was our office’s understanding that Chemours (formerly Southern Ionics) has been mining in the same general vicinity for many years. Has the Chemours project had a significant impact on any fish or wildlife in the area?
- Similarly, how close was the proposed DuPont mining project to the Okefenokee Swamp in comparison to the Twin Pines proposed project?
- What is Fish and Wildlife’s jurisdiction with regards to the Twin Pines mining project? If there are no federal protected species on the proposed site, does that jurisdiction still apply? Are hydrology impacts included in that jurisdiction?