United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
446 Neal Street
Cookeville, TN 38501

April 18, 2001

Mr. James C. Shepherd
Project Engineer
Decommissioning Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Mr Shepherd:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) personnel have reviewed the environmental assessment (EA) regarding the decommissioning plan for the Nuclear Fuel Services site in Erwin, Unicoi County, Tennessee, submitted April 12, 2001.

The EA is adequate and supports the conclusion of not likely to adversely affect, with which we concur. In view of this, we believe that the requirements of Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (Act) have been fulfilled and that no further consultation is needed at this time. However, obligations under Section 7 of the Act must be reconsidered if: (1) new information reveals that the proposed action may affect listed species in a manner or to an extent not previously considered, (2) the proposed action is subsequently modified to include activities which were not considered in this EA, or (3) new species are listed or critical habitat designated that might be affected by the proposed action.

We recommend that the Memorandum of Agreement between Nuclear Fuel Services, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service be included as an appendix in the final EA. We request that a copy of the final EA be submitted to this office for our records.

Your interest and initiative to protect endangered and threatened species is greatly appreciated. If you have questions or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Steve Alexander of my staff at 931/528-6481, ext. 210, or via e-mail at steven_alexander@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

Lee A. Barclay, Ph.D.
Field Supervisor

xc: Jack Jones, Erwin NFH, Erwin