

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
P.O. Drawer 1190
Daphne, Alabama 36526

IN REPLY REFER TO:

04-0760

May 19, 2004

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Attn: Dr. Michael Masnik
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Dr. Masnik:

This letter is in response to your letter, dated March 4, 2004, notifying our agency of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) plan to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant Operations License Renewal, Limestone County, Alabama. The following comments are provided in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 661-667e), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703, *et seq.*) and section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543).

According to your letter, the proposed action would include the use and continued maintenance of the existing plant facilities and transmission lines. However, you indicated that very little new construction or ground disturbance would occur as a result of the proposed action. The entire Tennessee River system and the 5-county area traversed by the transmission lines provides habitat to a number of terrestrial and aquatic federally listed species. A county list of these species may be found on our website at the following address, <http://daphne.fws.gov/es/specieslst.htm>. The SEIS should address the type of ground disturbance and maintenance needed for the transmission lines. If the maintenance involves the use of chemicals or mowing to maintain the rights-of-way in a herbaceous environment, further consultation with the Service will be required to determine the extent, if any, these applications will have on listed species.

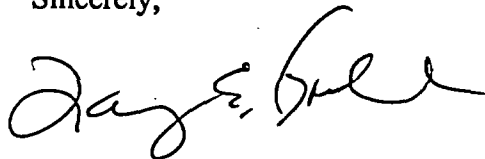
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Daphne, Alabama Field Office has concerns with the thermal plume that will be created if the maximum operating power level is increased for the facility. Thermal plume could impact aquatic organisms, particularly the rough pigtoe (*Pleurobema plenum*), an endangered mussel found in the vicinity of the discharge. The Service requests that surveys for threatened and endangered mussels be conducted and thermal plume models be produced pursuant to the preparation of the SEIS, and provided to this office for review.

The Service appreciates the early coordination on this project and we look forward to working with you during the preparation of the SEIS. If you have questions or comments, please direct them to

PHONE: 251-441-5181 www.fws.gov FAX: 251-441-6222
SHIPPING ADDRESS: 1208-B Main Street, Daphne, AL 36526

Mr. Bruce Porter, at (251)441-5864 or via email bruce_porter@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry E. Goldman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Larry" being the most prominent.

Larry E. Goldman
Field Supervisor

cc: Mr. Jon M. Loney,
Environmental Policy and Planning
Tennessee Valley Authority
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902-1499