



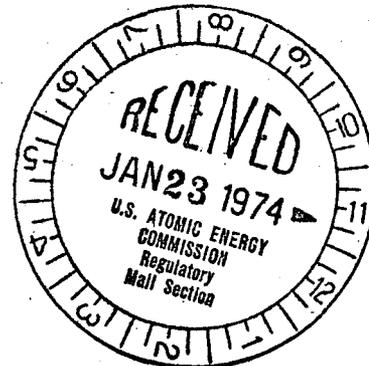
United States Department of the Interior

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~XXXXXXXXXX2
Reston, Va. 22092

50-390
50-391

January 21, 1974

Mr. Harold R. Denton, Assistant Director
for Site Safety
Directorate of Licensing
U.S. Atomic Energy Commission
7920 Norfolk Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20545



Dear Mr. Denton:

Reference is made to your letter to me, dated January 2, 1974, concerning a field inspection of the TVA Watts Bar Nuclear Plant site that was made by Mr. Skrovey of your geological staff on December 20, 1973. As discussed with Mr. Gammill, on January 2 we were not able to arrange for a site visit by one of our geologists in the relatively short time frame indicated in the last paragraph of your letter.

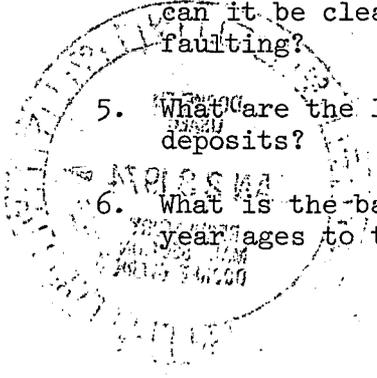
On the basis of the information supplied in your letter it did not appear necessary for us to examine the excavations at that time. However, as explained in discussions between Mr. Morris of the Geological Survey and Mr. Skrovey on January 4, we will be willing to visit the site at an appropriate time as can be arranged. It is our understanding that AEC is requesting TVA to prepare geologic maps and reports that will document the geologic conditions in the foundations and other definitive geologic relations. Additionally, it is our understanding that, although cementing will be started soon, parts of the excavation will still be available for examination for a month or so, if necessary. We believe the site examination would be more definitive with the geologic documentation in hand than it would be otherwise.

We suggest that the documentation requested by AEC should address at least the following points:

1. The length, attitudes, and senses of movements of the faults.
2. The geometric relations of the faults to folded and warped beds which truncate the faults.

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3. Are the faults related to any throughgoing major faults?
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4. How observable is the contact of the bedrock and the terrace deposits, and how much observation was conducted to determine that the faults do not cut the deposits? Is there any relief on top of the bedrock, and if so, can it be clearly attributed to processes other than faulting?
5. What are the lithologies and extents of the terrace deposits?
6. What is the basis for assigning the 10,000 - 100,000 year ages to the terrace deposits?



Yours sincerely,

Elmer H. Baltz

Elmer H. Baltz
Deputy Chief for Engineering Geology
Office of Environmental Geology

Copy to: Mr. W.P. Gammill