



TENNESSEE

STATE PLANNING OFFICE

REGULATORY DOCKET FILE COPY

RAY BLANTON  
Governor

STEPHEN H. NORRIS  
Director

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391

660 CAPITOL HILL BUILDING  
301 SEVENTH AVENUE, NORTH  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37219  
615-741-1676

August 7, 1978

Mr. William H. Regan, Jr., Chief  
Environmental Projects Branch 2  
Division of Site Safety and Environmental Analysis  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

RE: DEIS - Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, TVA

Dear Mr. Regan:

Please find enclosed comments from the Tennessee Department of Conservation concerning the above referenced EIS.

If I may be of further assistance, please contact me.

Sincerely,

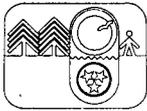
Bette A. Osborne  
Natural Resource Staff

BAO/fe

Enclosure

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EIS  
1/1



Division of Planning and Development

2611 West End Ave. Nashville, TN 37203 [615] 741-1061

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bette Osborne

FROM: Walter L. Criley *WLC/ec.*

DATE: August 1, 1978

SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Statement  
Operation of Units 1 & 2 Watts Bar  
Nuclear Plant TVA

The Tennessee Department of Conservation has reviewed the above referenced proposed project and submits the following comments:

The data base of the Tennessee Heritage Program shows the following reported occurrences of significant elements of natural diversity near the site of the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant:

Lampsilis orbiculata (Pink Mucket Pearly Mussel) Listed as an Endangered species on Federal Lists<sup>1</sup>, State Lists<sup>2</sup>, and Lists of the Tennessee Heritage Program. Collected 1.0 mile below Watts Bar Dam - 1975.

Pleurobema cordatum Lea (Pigtoe Pearly Mussel) Listed as a species of Special Concern by the Tennessee Heritage Program. Collected 1.0 mile below Watts Bar Dam - 1975.

Pandion haliaetus (Osprey) Listed as an Endangered species on State Lists and Threatened on Lists of the Tennessee Heritage Program. Old nest site on Yellow Creek about 0.5 kilometer from the Tn. R. A pair of mature birds seen at site in April of 1974.

This Environmental Statement acknowledges the existence of an Osprey nest within the project area and states that the species is not classified as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This may be true; however, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency has classified the bird as Endangered in Tennessee and the Tennessee Heritage Program lists it as Threatened. Care should be taken to protect this nest site from disturbance or destruction since it may once again be utilized in the future. The Tennessee Heritage Program data base shows only five active Osprey nests in the State of Tennessee in 1978.

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This plant is on a section of the Tennessee River which has been designated as a mussel sanctuary (control area) by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. This section of the river serves as habitat for one known Federally endangered species and another which is of Special Concern to the Tennessee Heritage Program due to its limited distribution.

While the report indicates that the aquatic biota will not be significantly impacted, care should be taken to prevent continued degradation of this section of the Tennessee River since it is already classified as "effluent - limited" due to the fact that it does not meet dissolved oxygen criteria for the protection of aquatic biota<sup>3</sup>.

The Tennessee Valley Authority anticipates occasions when the river temperature will exceed the 30.5°C (86.9°F) which has been set as a maximum acceptable level by the Tennessee Water Quality Control Board and the Environmental Protection Agency. Such a situation would most likely occur during summer months when the river's flow rates are low and power generating demands are high. The low flow rates could result in increased concentrations of the estimated 987 kg/day of Sulfate, 630 kg/day of Sodium and 344 kg/day of Chloride contained in the plant effluent. This situation would represent a significant stress to the aquatic biota in the river downstream of the plant.

1

USDI/FWS 1976 U.S. Federal Register 41 (115) June 14, 1976

2

Tennessee State List - Enabling Authority - "Tennessee Nongame and Endangered or Threatened Wildlife Species Act of 1974 (Public Chapter 769)"

3

Water Quality Management Plan for the Upper Tennessee River Basin, Tennessee Department of Public Health, Nashville, October 30, 1975

pm

cc: Bill Yambert