

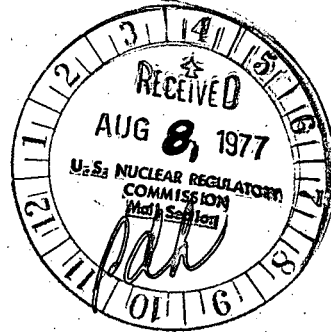
WATTS BAR 162  
Doc Nos. 50-390/391



# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

17 EXECUTIVE PARK DRIVE, N. E.  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30329



Regulatory

File 07

Regional Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
345 Courtland Street, NE.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

AUG 1 1977

Dear Sir:

This is in response to Mr. Howard D. Zeller's letter dated July 15, 1977, requesting the Fish and Wildlife Service to review and comment on the draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to the Tennessee Valley Authority's Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, NPDES No. TN0020168, and the scope of the aquatic monitoring program required by this permit. Our comments are submitted in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

Dr. Harold Wahlquist and Ms. Margaret Harney will participate in the August 2, 1977, meeting on this project.

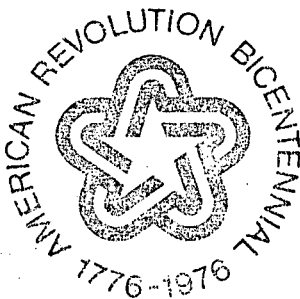
The applicant proposes to perform a baseline adult fish monitoring program but does not clearly explain the rationale for this program. The purpose should be stated clearly, such as (1) preexisting stresses, (2) anticipated synergistic stresses or impacts, and (3) impacts anticipated from operation of the cooling water intake structure(s).

The Service is concerned about the potential impact of plant operation on the State of Tennessee mussel sanctuary located on the opposite shore of the plant. Information provided in the applicant's Environmental Information, Watts Bar Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2, dated November 18, 1976, reveals the presence of at least 13 mussel species including the endangered Lampsilis orbiculata. The Service does not possess enough information to judge whether the proposed operation regime of and discharges from this power station will jeopardize the continued existence of Lampsilis in the mussel sanctuary. A distinct need exists for obtaining 96-hour median tolerance limits data on effluents that could be toxic to Lampsilis and other indigenous mussels within the receiving waters.

772200205

cc:

Mr. O. D. T. Lynch, Jr., Project Manager,  
NRC, Washington, D.C.



O. D. T. LYNCH, JR.  
Project Manager, EPB-2  
USNRC Washington, D. C. 20559  
AUG 5 1977

The Service's position is to condition this permit with monitoring of the State mussel sanctuary and developing 96-hour median tolerance limits data on select indigenous mussel species in the receiving waters from which a judgment can be determined. The above views constitute the report of the Department of the Interior.

Sincerely yours,

**/s/ Ray E. Vaughn**

**ACTING** Regional Director