



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

50-390/391

PEP ER-78/500

JUL 12 1978

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

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Dear Mr. Regan:

Thank you for your letter of June 2, 1978, transmitting copies of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's draft environmental statement for the operation of Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, Rhea County, Tennessee. Our comments are arranged by subject.

Hydrology

Section 5.3.7 states that the radius of influence of the supply wells has been calculated to be 400 feet on the basis of discharging-well tests. The final statement should specify the well discharge rate corresponding to the given radius of influence. The final statement should also specify the elapsed time, that is, whether the radius of influence is calculated as 400 feet for the life of the project or for a short term.

The hydraulic characteristics of the aquifer used in the computations should be given and the aquifer(s) tapped by the preoperational and operational monitoring, listed on pages 6-1 and 6-6, should be identified.

Mineral Resources

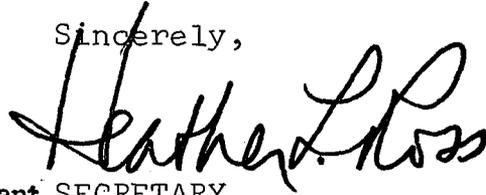
The proposed project will have no adverse effects on mineral resources and may benefit mineral resources by providing electrical power for potential mineral development within the Tennessee Valley Authority service area.

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We hope these comments will be helpful to you in the preparation of a final environmental statement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather L. Ross". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Deputy Assistant SECRETARY