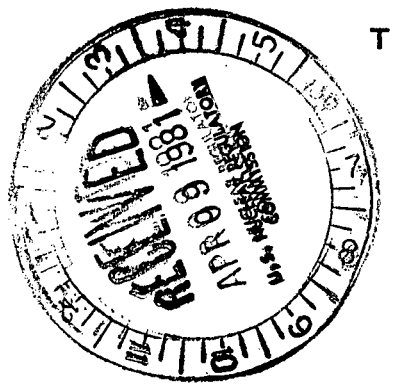

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY
NORRIS, TENNESSEE 37828

Sonja, do this yours? Reg
See # 8004626385

FEB 26 1981

Mr. Howard Zeller, Acting Director
Enforcement Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region IV
345 Courtland Street, NE.
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Dear Mr. Zeller:

WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT - NPDES PERMIT NO. TN0020168 - OPERATIONAL STAGE NONRADIOLOGICAL FISHERIES MONITORING PROGRAM

In a letter to you dated March 24, 1980, we sent a description of TVA's operational fisheries monitoring program for Watts Bar Nuclear Plant (NPDES No. TN0020168). Since that time we have reviewed our plan and have found that minor changes to this description are needed in order for sampling to be consistent with methods used in preoperational monitoring. In the section, "Gill and Hoop Net Sampling", we stated that nets would be fished four consecutive nights each bimonthly period. This should be two consecutive nights each month. In the section, "Electrofishing", we stated samples would be taken with the boat moving in a downstream direction. This should be with the boat moving in an upstream direction.

Pages 1 and 3 of the plan submitted March 24, 1980, should be replaced by modified pages 1 and 3 enclosed with this letter. The modified page 1 has also been updated to reflect present fuel load and commercial operating dates for Watts Bar Nuclear Plant. These dates are subject to change, and fisheries operational monitoring will begin upon Unit 1 fuel loading (presently scheduled for November 1981). If you have any questions or concerns regarding these modifications, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Mohamed T. El-Ashry, Ph.D.
Director of Environmental Quality

Enclosure
cc: See page 2

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FEB 26 1981

Mr. Howard Zeller

cc (Enclosure):
Mr. Kenneth E. Black
Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Post Office Box 95067
Atlanta, Georgia 30347

Mr. Regis Boyle, Director
Environmental Projects
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Mr. Elmo Lunn, Director
Division of Water Quality Control
Tennessee Department of Public Health
621 Cordell Hull Building
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

Mr. Jack McCormick, Basin Chief
Division of Water Quality Control
Tennessee Department of Public Health
2501 Milne Street
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37406

Mr. Lee B. Tebo, Chief
Ecology Branch
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
College Station Road
Athens, Georgia 30605

WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT OPERATIONAL STAGE NONRADIOLOGICAL FISHERIES MONITORING PROGRAM

Watts Bar Nuclear Plant on Chickamauga Reservoir is presently scheduled for Unit 1 fuel loading in November 1981 with commercial operation by March 1982. Unit 2 is scheduled for fuel loading in June 1982 and commercial operation in December 1982. The following is a description of the operational stage nonradiological fisheries monitoring plans for Watts Bar Nuclear Plant (WBNP). In March 1980 preoperational fisheries monitoring data (1976-79) were reported in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Any necessary modifications to this operational monitoring plan will be implemented (in consultation with EPA) to better address identified areas of concern. Once implemented, the following plan could be modified with 30 days notice to EPA and accompanied by written justification for changes needed.

The operational fisheries monitoring program will provide comparative empirical data to identify any deviations in the fish communities of Chickamauga Reservoir from the observed preoperational information collected at the Watts Bar site. In addition, potential plant-induced impacts (e.g., entrainment and impingement) will be evaluated in terms of their significance to the Chickamauga fisheries resources.

ADULT FISH MONITORING

Gill and Hoop Net Sampling

Eight each of gill and hoop nets will be fished for two consecutive nights each month. Four of each type net will be set at Station A (TRM 524.5) and Station B (TRM 528.0). These

at each station. Samples will all be taken with the boat moving in an upstream direction. All fish collected will be identified to species and enumerated.

Impingement

Fish impingement studies will commence when Unit 1 at WBNP becomes operational. Numbers and species of fish impinged on the intake screen for a 24-hour period will be determined once each week. At the beginning of each test period, all screens in use will be cleaned, and 24 hours later each screen will be washed separately to collect impinged fish. Instances of extreme cold icing may preclude operation of some or all screens and thus result in a few missed samples. Impinged fish will be identified to species, sorted into 25 mm length classes, and enumerated. In cases of very high numbers of fish, standard subsampling procedures will be followed.

Creel Survey

Operational creel survey data for the WBNP vicinity will be conducted. Significant deviations in sport fish harvest from that observed during preoperational monitoring would be assessed in terms of potential impacts resulting from plant operation.

Cove Rotenone Sampling

Four to five coves (same locations as used in preoperational monitoring) will be rotenoned annually to compare species lists and standing stocks with those observed during preoperational monitoring. Data collected from cove rotenone samples on Chickamauga Reservoir will be utilized to evaluate potential long-term impacts from WBNP.