

Public

October 28, 1994

Dr. Lee A. Barclay, Supervisor
Ecological Services Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
446 Neal Street
Cookerville, Tennessee 38501

50-390/391

Dear Dr. Barclay:

SUBJECT: WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Currently, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is reviewing the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) operating license application for Unit 1 of the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant (WBN). TVA expects to initiate commercial operation of Unit 1 in the spring of 1995. To ensure that the NRC complies with its statutory requirements in Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), we are submitting a biological assessment (enclosure) completed by TVA for the threatened and endangered species in the vicinity of WBN.

A number of species listed as threatened or endangered are known to exist near WBN: four species of freshwater mussels, the snail darter, the bald eagle, and the grey bat. The enclosed biological assessment includes an evaluation of the likely effects operation, of both Units 1 and 2 at WBN, will have on the listed species. In the biological assessment, TVA concludes that the operation of WBN is not likely to affect individuals or populations of any of the listed species or their critical habitats.

Although the NRC agrees with the "no effect" determination made in the biological assessment, we have concluded that our regulatory interests would best be served by requesting formal consultation. Therefore, we are requesting formal consultation.

If you have any questions about the information in the biological assessment, please call James H. Wilson, (301) 504-1108, or Scott Flanders, (301) 504-1172.

Sincerely, Original Signed By
WILLIAM T. RUSSELL
William T. Russell, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos: 50-390
and 50-391

Enclosure:
Biological Assessment
distribution: See next sheet

*See previous concurrence

Tech Ed*	PDLR:LA	PDLR:LA	PDLR:LA	PDLR:D	PDII-4:D*	OGC*
MMejac	LLuther	SFlanders	FAKstulewicz	SNewberry	FHebdon	
10/7/94	10/20/94	10/20/94	10/20/94	10/20/94	10/17/94	10/17/94

ADPR:NRR	WZimmerman	WRussell
10/28/94	10/28/94	

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