United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
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Chief, Rulemaking, Directives and Editing Branch
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop T6-D59
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Sir/Madam:

The U.S. Department of the Interior has reviewed the subject Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants, Supplement 32 to NUREG-1437, Wolf Creek Generating Station, Burlington, Coffey County, Kansas, and offers the following comments.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS

Section 2.2.5.1.2, Neosho River and John Redmond Reservoir, page 2-47, line 18

The reference Osterkamp and Hedman (1981) is not listed in the references section at the end of the chapter.

Section 2.2.5.1.2, Neosho River and John Redmond Reservoir, page 2-47, lines 29-39

The paragraph provides a discussion of annual streamflow statistics for three USGS gaging stations on the Neosho River. Annual streamflow statistics at two of the gaging sites are for the period 1964 to 2004; however, a period of 1994 to 2004 was selected for the third site (Neosho River near Iota, Kansas; USGS number 07183000). It is suggested that the same period of record be used in the analysis. Further, the annual statistics reported for this site during the abbreviated period of 1994-2004 are not correct. Annual streamflow statistics for the Neosho River near Iota are available on the Internet at:
http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ks/nwis/annual/?referred_module=sw&site_no=07183000&por_07183000_1=92933,00060,1,1896,2006&year_type=W&format=html_table&date_format=YYYY-MM-DD&rdb_compression=file&submitted_form=parameter_selection_list

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Add - C. Jacobs (CJJ)

Section 2.2.5, Aquatic Resources, pages 2-42 -- 2-48; and Section 4.1.2, Entrainment of Fish and Shellfish in Early Life Stages, and Section 4.1.3, Impingement of Fish and Other Aquatic Organisms, pages 4-20 -- 4-37

The DEIS contains several statements of fact and species observations without the benefit of supporting references. The final EIS would be enhanced if the document included supporting references for such statements of fact and field surveys. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:

- "Aquatic vegetation indicator samples for KDHE were collected...between July and September 2005 and April and June 2006." (page 2-51, 2nd paragraph)
- "Limited data on larval fish...have been collected by WCNOC...These samples were collected monthly from...to determine approximate peak occurrence of larvae." (page 4-21, 1st and 2nd full paragraphs)
- "Although sample sizes were small, the results indicated that larval fish densities were much lower upstream of the cooling water intake in Coffey County Lake than in the Neosho River." (page 4-21, 3rd full paragraph)
- "Least terns were recorded...but nesting has not been observed there." (page 4-73, 2nd full paragraph)
- "The bird collision survey...and the area of the Lime Sludge Pond." and "The dead bird surveys began in February 1983 and continued through February 1988." (page 4-73, 4th full paragraph and top of page 4-74, respectively)

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this DEIS. If you have any questions concerning our comments, please contact Lloyd Woosley, Chief of the USGS Environmental Affairs Program, at (703) 648-5028 or at lwoosley@usgs.gov.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Stewart

Robert F. Stewart
Regional Environmental Officer