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 WARR, J.W. Alabama, State of

Encl

SUBJECT: Forwards revisions to util 800603 study plan for monitoring water quality & aquatic biological conditions in Guntersville Reservoir. Encl amends frequency of gill net & electrofishing samples. Monthly sampling schedule preferable.

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Mr. James W. Warr, Director
Water Improvement Commission
State Office Building
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Dear Mr. Warr:

BELLEFONTE NUCLEAR PLANT (BNP) - NPDES PERMIT NO. AL0024635

As required by Part III.7 of the above permit, we submitted to you on June 3, 1980, a study plan for monitoring the water quality and aquatic biological conditions in Guntersville Reservoir prior to operation of Bellefonte Nuclear Plant. The purpose of this letter is to amend the frequency of gill net and electrofishing samples previously submitted in the study plan (Fisheries Monitoring - pages 2 and 3).

We believe that a monthly sampling schedule instead of the proposed quarterly schedule is preferable for both gill net and electrofishing samples. Although the study plan sent to you on June 3, 1980, specified water temperature conditions by which quarters would be defined, we think monthly sampling will provide better data relative to seasonal distribution, population levels, migratory patterns, etc. Enclosed are amended pages 2 and 3 of the original study plan, which incorporate the above changes.

Since present project schedules call for implementation of preoperational fisheries sampling in March 1981, we request your verbal or written concurrence with these modifications by March 2, 1981.

We appreciate your consideration of this matter, and we will continue to keep you informed of any changes in construction schedule or in the monitoring plan for Bellefonte Nuclear Plant.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By
M. T. El-Ashry

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

cc (See Next Page):

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Mr. James W. Warr

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BELLEFONTE NUCLEAR PLANT (BNP) - NPDES PERMIT NO. AL0024635

cc (Enclosure):

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

Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
7920 Norfolk Avenue
Washington, DC 20555

Data are also available from larval fish sampling and cove rotenone inventories conducted as part of the monitoring program at BNP, and these data, along with other fisheries data to be collected from 1980 through 1981, will be utilized in the preparation of the final preoperational monitoring report.

Radiological sampling will be conducted as part of this preoperational monitoring program. Samples will be analyzed and results reported by the TVA Radiological Hygiene Branch.

Procedures for Environmental Data Collection and Analysis

The procedures to be used for the collection of aquatic biological and water quality samples, including sample locations and collection schedules, are described below.

Fisheries Monitoring

Four types of gear will be employed to sample the fish community near BNP: monthly samples with gill nets and boat-mounted electroshockers; annual samples of nearby coves using rotenone, and biweekly samples of fish eggs and larvae with fine mesh, towed nets during the fish spawning season.

Gill Netting

Gill netting will consist of two multifilament, sinking, experimental gill nets (1.3-6.4 cm bar mesh) 37.9 m long and x 2.4 m deep fished perpendicular to both shorelines, 100 m apart, at each of three stations (TRM's 388.0, 391.0, 396.5). Samples will also be taken along the right shoreline at TRM 392.5. Mesh progressions will run in opposite

directions for the two nets set on each shoreline. Nets will be fished two consecutive nights each month for a total of 28 samples. All fish captured will be identified to species and enumerated.

Electrofishing

Electrofishing equipment will consist of a boat-mounted 230-volt 3.5-kilowatt direct current generator delivering a continuous current of approximately four amperes to the water. Fish visually affected by the electrofishing unit will be captured with long-handled dip nets, identified to species, and enumerated. A numerical estimate of those fish not captured will be included in the sample data, provided a positive species identification can be made.

Electrofishing samples will be taken during each month at the same four stations used for gill-netting. An electrofishing sample will consist of continually shocking a 100-meter section of shoreline while moving in a downstream direction. All samples will be timed. Five of these samples, separated by a buffer zone of at least 20 meters, will be taken along each shoreline at the four stations (except at the intake station, TRM 392.5, where only the right shoreline will be sampled). All stations will be sampled on the same day during each trip. In addition, five samples will be taken along both shorelines.