

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONDOCKET NOS. STN 50-553 AND STN 50-554TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITYNOTICE OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENTS TO CONSTRUCTION PERMITS

Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has issued Amendments No. 1 to Construction Permits Nos. CPPR-162 and CPPR-163 issued to Tennessee Valley Authority for construction of the Phipps Bend Nuclear Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, located at the permittee's site in Hawkins County, Tennessee.

The amendments modify the construction permits to the extent they modify certain commitments made during the course of the environmental review.

The application for the amendments complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and the Commission's rules and regulations. Prior public notice of these amendments is not required since the amendments do not involve a significant hazards consideration.

The Commission has determined that the issuance of this amendment will not result in any significant environmental impact and that pursuant to 10 CFR Section 51.5(d)(4) an environmental impact statement, or negative declaration and environmental impact appraisal need not be prepared in connection with issuance of this amendment.

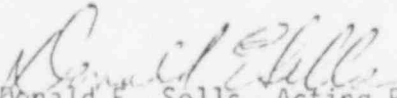
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For further details with respect to this action, see (1) the application for amendments dated January 3, 1979; and (2) Amendments No. 1 to Construction Permit Nos. CPPR-162 and CPPR-163. All of these items are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, DC and in the Kingsport Public Library, Broad and New Streets, Kingsport, Tennessee. A copy of items (2) may be obtained upon request addressed to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, Attention: Director, Division of Site Safety and Environmental Analysis.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 6th day of August 1979.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


Donald E. Sells, Acting Branch Chief
Environmental Projects Branch 2
Division of Site Safety and
Environmental Analysis

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37401
500C Chestnut Street Tower II

January 3, 1979

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

Dear Mr. Denton:

In the Matter of the Application of) Docket Nos. STN 50-553
Tennessee Valley Authority) STN 50-554

As a result of TVA's continual review of its environmental obligations pertaining to the Phipps Bend Nuclear Plant (PBNP), we have identified some commitments which we plan to change pending your review and approval. The commitments, reference(s), the proposed changes, and supporting remarks are contained in Enclosure 1.

Enclosure 2 identifies minor commitments that are not being implemented as stated but rather as discussed under the heading Commitment as Presently Being Implemented.

Very truly yours,

JE Gilleland

J. E. Gilleland
Assistant Manager of Power

Enclosures

cc: Mr. James P. O'Reilly, Director (Enclosures)
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region II - Suite 3100
101 Marietta Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

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1. Commitment

Revegetation efforts in rights-of-way will include the reestablishment of some native species, as well as the establishment of grasses (especially fescue) and other wildlife food and cover.

References

NRC FES Section 4.1.3.1, p. 4-3, first complete paragraph, second sentence.

Proposed Change

Revegetation efforts in rights of way will include the establishment of grasses (especially fescue) and other wildlife food and cover (refer to ER Sections 4.3.2, 4.3.8, Appendix N1, and Questions 4.9 and 4.41 of Supplement 1).

Remarks

Since native species will naturally reinvade the area, the discussion regarding reestablishment of native species is not necessary and should be removed.

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2. Commitment

Therefore, at least 6 months prior to construction of the Phipps Bend transmission facilities or immediately after the final route is determined, TVA will be required to perform a ground survey of the proposed routes for protected biota (both flora and fauna).

References

NRC FES Section 4.1.3.1, p. 4-4, first complete paragraph, seventh sentence.

Proposed Change

After the location of the rights of way have been determined, TVA biologists will review any deviations in the route by helicopter not previously assessed in the initial survey to determine if field surveys of any identified sensitive areas are warranted.

Remarks

TVA has a comprehensive siting approach for transmission lines which is designed to identify and eliminate potential conflicts with sensitive or unique natural and cultural resource features in the earliest phases of the transmission line routing process. This is accomplished through a combination of helicopter observations and ground inspections of proposed corridors before final route selection. Areas which are known to support populations of State or Federally listed threatened, endangered, or otherwise sensitive wildlife and plant species are identified and carefully avoided during the initial phases of line siting. Corridors are then flown to determine the presence of possible critical or sensitive habitats (i.e., caves, cedar glades, bogs, etc.), which could support previously unknown populations of threatened or endangered species. If such habitats are identified during the overflights, the areas are relocated on the ground and inspected to determine whether or not sensitive

wildlife and plant species are present or if the habitat is actually suitable for such species. In either case, these areas are also avoided during the early siting phase.

After the location of the rights of way has been determined, TVA biologists will review any deviations in the route by helicopter not previously assessed in the initial survey, to determine if field surveys of any identified sensitive areas are warranted. If any such areas may be jeopardized, steps will be taken to avoid impacting the areas of concern.

TVA believes that this comprehensive approach to transmission line routing should satisfy the staff concerning the routing of TVA transmission lines and their potential for adverse impacts to populations of State or Federally listed threatened or endangered species. TVA biologists who regularly deal with TVA's transmission line siting projects believe that the current procedures are more than adequate to protect sensitive species and critical habitats. Furthermore, additional ground inspection, as proposed in the commitment, of several hundred miles of transmission line corridors, which have been previously evaluated, is considered time-consuming, costly and provides no additional degree of assurance.

3. Commitment

Tordon 101 will be used at the rate of 10 lbs/acre--which is within the present EPA allowable limits.

Reference

a. Appendix N2; Construction Permit Appendix A, p. 3, item 23;
NRC FES Section 4.5.1.1, p. 4-14, item 23; FES Section 5.6.1, p.
5-30.

Proposed Change

Tordon 101 will be used at the rate of 10 lbs/acre--which is within the present EPA allowable limits or similar approved herbicides will be used within the limits established by EPA.

Remarks

If different EPA approved herbicides are used for the PBNP transmission lines, TVA will provide information to the staff similar to that previously provided to the Federal Working Group on Pest Management relating to the use of the herbicides (refer to Enclosure 1, items 8 and 10 of a letter from J. E. Gilleland to H. R. Denton dated June 30, 1977).

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4. Commitment

Acreages of aquatic habitat lost due to construction (dredging or filling) of intake and discharge facilities will be documented utilizing measurements from aerial photographs. Baseline (Section 2.7, Appendix F) and preoperational information (Section 6.2) will permit quantification and evaluation of these losses.

Reference

ER Section 6.1.1.2.1, p. 6.1-3, second paragraph, first and second sentences.

Proposed Change

Acreages of aquatic habitat lost due to construction (dredging or filling) of intake and discharge facilities will be minimal and will not result in significant losses. If at some future date, the acreage of aquatic habitat lost to permanent structures is required for impact assessment, such a determination could adequately be made from existing engineering drawings, maps, or those color aerial photographs now being taken on an annual basis to monitor construction effects on aquatic macrophytes near the site (ER Section 6.1.1.2.3, p. 6.1-5).

Remarks

The small area of aquatic habitat permanently lost was determined to be insignificant in terms of fish population reductions (PBNP ER Section 4.1.2.2). It is our understanding that the NRC has concurred with this assessment (NRC FES Section 4.3.2.1).

Since habitat (and ultimately fish biomass) loss was determined to be insignificant, documentation of such losses would not appear to provide useful information. >

In any event, aerial photography would reveal only areas lost to permanent structures above water, and would not reveal any damage to spawning habitat outside these structures.

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5. Commitment

A set of five ground water observation wells was installed at the site in 1974. Collections will begin before initial clearing and construction. Quarterly grab samples will be collected from these wells and analyzed for the following parameters: Temperature, pH, conductivity, alkalinity, solids (dissolved and suspended), chemical oxygen demand, nitrogens (nitrate plus nitrite, organic, and ammonia), phosphorus (soluble and total), fecal coliforms, copper, nickel, zinc, chromium, boron, sodium, sulfate, manganese, cadmium, and lead.

Reference

ER Section 6.1.2.1, first paragraph; NRC FES p. 6-5, first paragraph.

Proposed Change

Ground water monitoring will not be conducted during the construction phase.

Remarks

TVA has determined that acquisition of ground water data during the construction phase at Phipps Bend is not necessary; therefore, we are requesting that the ground water quality monitoring be deleted as a required activity during this phase.

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ENCLOSURE 2

1. Commitment As Presently Cited

All potentially hazardous wastes will be handled and stored in accordance with applicable regulations to ensure the protection of the employees, public, and environment. These wastes will be collected and transported to disposal facilities by a qualified solid waste management contractor, in accordance with applicable requirements of EPA's "Regulation for Acceptance and Recommended Procedures for Disposal and Storage (May 1, 1974)."

Reference

Construction Permit Appendix A, p. 3, item 8; NRC FES Section 4.5.1.2, p. 4-15, item 8; ER p. 4.1-13, first complete paragraph.

Commitment As Presently Being Implemented

All potentially hazardous wastes will be handled and stored in accordance with applicable regulations to ensure the protection of the employees, public, and environment. These wastes will be collected and transported to an approved disposal facility by a qualified solid waste management contractor or by TVA in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Remarks

EPA "Regulations for Acceptance and Recommended Procedures for Disposal and Storage (May 1, 1974)" pertains only to pesticides and pesticide containers and not all potential hazardous wastes.

16A 337

2. Commitment As Presently Cited

Observations of waterfowl, shore birds, and other wetland species are made by bimonthly flights in a small, single-engine aircraft each year during the period November-April.

Reference

ER Section 6.1.3, p. 6.1-6, Migrant and Wintering Waterfowl - Wetlands Investigations, first sentence

Commitment As Presently Being Implemented

Observations of waterfowl, shore birds, and other wetland species are made every two weeks by flights in a small single-engine aircraft each year during the period November-April.

Remarks

TVA's aerial surveys have always been performed every two weeks rather than bimonthly.

164 338

3. Commitment as Presently Cited

Observations of waterfowl, shore birds, and wetland birds are obtained by an observer and a pilot-observer from a small helicopter. Surveys are conducted at 20-50 feet above the surface at an air speed of 25-30 miles per hour. Bimonthly counts from April through October cover all wetland habitats within a 5-mile radius of the plant site. Surveys begin at sunrise and end before 11 a.m. EDT. Waterfowl are classified by sex and age; similar criteria are applied to other fauna when possible.

Reference

ER Section 6.1.3, p. 6.1-6/-7, Spring-Summer Waterfowl-Wetlands Investigations, second paragraph.

Commitment As Presently Being Implemented

Observations of waterfowl, and other birds are obtained by an observer and a pilot-observer from a small helicopter. Surveys are conducted at 20-50 feet above the surface at an air speed of 25-30 miles per hour. Counts which are conducted every two weeks from April through October cover all wetland habitats within a 5-mile radius of the plant site. Waterfowl are classified by sex and age; similar criteria are applied to other fauna when possible.

Remarks

See remarks to Commitment 2. The statement regarding the time period in which surveys are performed is a holdover from boat censusing which TVA no longer performs (see remarks Commitment 4).

76A 339

4. Commitment As Presently Cited

During overflights and boat censusing general condition of riparian and other wetland habitat will be evaluated for construction impacts.

Reference

ER Section 6.1.3, p. 6.1-6/-7, Spring-Summer Waterfowl-Wetlands Investigations, fourth paragraph, first sentence.

Proposed Revision

During overflights general condition of riparian habitat will be evaluated for construction impacts.

Commitment As Presently Being Implemented

The use of boats in the spring of 1974 was changed to the use of helicopters beginning in the spring of 1975 and has thus presented advantages over the use of a boat. The helicopter has enabled the survey radius to be extended which better reflected the daily mobility of waterfowl and therefore measure a more realistic impact area. In addition, there has been a significant time saving in that previously a boat required one full day to survey a site; whereas, with a helicopter, 14 sites can be surveyed in 3 days. In summary, data collection from a helicopter enhances TVA's observation capabilities and also has proven to be highly cost efficient.

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