



ER 85/139

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

MAR 1 1985

George W. Knighton, Chief
Licensing Branch No. 3
Division of Licensing
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Knighton:

Thank you for your letter of January 11, 1985, transmitting copies of the draft environmental impact statement (OLS) for Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit 2, Beaver County, Pennsylvania. Our comments are presented according to the format of the statement or by subject.

Cooling System

The draft statement indicates on page 4-5 that there would be an increase in the discharge water temperature during the operation of both Units 1 and 2. The discharge temperature differential above ambient of 1.3°C to 15.9°C and maximum change of 22°C would seasonally exceed the Pennsylvania State Water Quality Standards for water temperature of discharges into warmwater fishery areas. This standard was set to protect indigenous fishes and aquatic resources against thermal shock. The final statement should discuss the alternatives that were considered to reduce the temperature differential in the heated discharge and present the rationale for choosing the selected method of discharge.

Aquatic

Biologists of the State College, Pennsylvania, Field Office of the Fish and Wildlife Service have collected two skipjack herrings upstream from the Beaver Valley plant site. Up until this time, the skipjack herring was thought to have been extirpated from the area. Therefore, the final statement should be revised to reflect the occurrence of the skipjack herring within the proposed project area.

Groundwater Monitoring

Note 7 of Table 5.6, Preoperational Radiological Monitoring Program for Beaver Valley, Unit 2, indicates that there will be no radiological monitoring of ground water on the site, because the current hydraulic gradient is northwest toward the river. We suggest that during operation, pumping from the onsite wells will cause changes in the gradient direction that would make radiological monitoring as well as chemical and biological monitoring advisable at the site. Application of the aquifer characteristics given in the

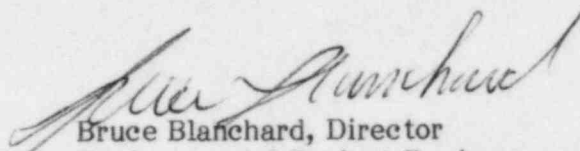
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statement on pages 5-41 and 5-42 indicates that the reversal of gradient will be appreciable and ground-water travel within the cone of depression will be accelerated. This issue should be reevaluated.

We hope these comments will be helpful to you.

Sincerely,



Bruce Blanchard, Director
Environmental Project Review