



December 5, 1988

Mr. Jerry J. Swift
Project Manager
Division of Industrial and Medical
Nuclear Safety
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1 White Flint North
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

Subject: Survey of Flora and Fauna at the AlChemIE Oliver Springs Site

Dear Mr. Swift:

On November 11, 1988, a "walk-through" survey for endangered species (both plant and animal) was done at the proposed AlChemIE Facility 2 site. This survey was performed due to a request from the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. The survey was conducted by Mr. Monte McDonald and Dr. Jane Tate, employees of the EDGE Group, Inc., under contract to AlChemIE. Ernie Burress of SAIC's Oak Ridge Office and Maureen Cunningham (a temporary employee of SAIC) accompanied the EDGE Group personnel to make their own observations about the presence or potential presence of or habitat appropriate for any of the species listed as Endangered or Threatened by either the Federal Government of the State of Tennessee and known to occur on the DOE Oak Ridge Reservation (see attached listing).

Due to the season, the survey was primarily a habitat survey rather than an actual survey of plant and animal species present.

The proposed site of the AlChemIE Facility 2 is within the Andy Justice Industrial Park being developed by the city of Oliver Springs. The site is a portion of a former farm, and is still being used to pasture cattle. No other maintenance is being performed on the site; as a result, it is in an early succession state. Bordering the open field where the proposed AlChemIE Facility 2 would be built is an area of second-growth forest consisting of a nearly pure stand of pine. The dominant species is the Virginia pine, Pinus virginiana.

Both Mr. Burress and Ms. Cunningham who is very experienced in the identification of local threatened plant species are of the opinion that the area is not an appropriate habitat for any federally threatened or endangered plant species. The forest area adjacent to the proposed AlChemIE plant area could be an appropriate habitat for two plant species considered Threatened by the State of Tennessee. These two species are Lilium canadense (Canada lily) and Hydrastis canadensis (Goldenseal). However, due to the disturbance resulting from years of cattle grazing and previous

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additional information



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timbering, it was their opinion that occurrence of these two species would be very unlikely.

Mr. Burress discussed with the EDGe Group personnel the acceptability of the proposed site as a habitat for threatened or endangered faunal species and agrees that the proposed site could be an appropriate primary habitat for the Bachman's sparrow: Aimophila aestivalis and the Grasshopper sparrow Ammodramus savannarum. The first of these is on the state's endangered species list and the second is on the state's threatened species list. The habitat however is not unique in the local area, thus reducing the possibility of any significant impact to these two species.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James E. Hammelman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

James E. Hammelman
Principal Investigator

List of Federal or State Endangered (E), Threatened (T), or Of Special Concern (S) Plant Species Known to Occur on the Oak Ridge Reservation

Species	Status		Federal Habitat
	TN		
1. <u>Aureolaria patula</u>	T	1	River bluffs near waterline
2. <u>Cimicifuga rubifolia</u>	T	2	River bluffs near waterline
3. <u>Delphinium exaltatum</u>	E		Open rocky woods and barrens (limestone)
4. <u>Diervilla lonicera</u>	T		River cliffs
5. <u>Fothergilla major</u>	T		Acid forest
6. <u>Hydrastis canadensis</u>	T		Limestone, moist woods
7. <u>Lilium canadense</u>	T		Moist woods and edges
8. <u>Panax quinquefolius</u>	T		Rich woods
9. <u>Platanthera flava</u>	S		Shaded wetland
10. <u>Saxifraga careyana</u>	S	2	On limestone near lake
11. <u>Spiranthes ovalis</u>	S		Woods over limestone

1 Plant has been studied for Federal listing; listing is likely

2 Plant has been nominated for Federal listing; not yet sufficient evidence to warrant listing

DOCKET NO. 50-604

CONTROL NO. 24983

DATE OF DOC. December 5, 1988

DATE RCVD. December 6, 1988

FQUP

PDR

FCAF

LPDR

I & E REF.

SAFEGUARDS

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OTHER

DATE 12/06/88

INITIAL etc