

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

SUBJECT: Comments on Draft EIS (NUREG-0529)  
Docket Nos.: STN 50-568 and STN 50-569

TO: Director  
Division of Site Safety and  
Environmental Analysis  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Our staff has reviewed the subject Draft Environmental Impact Statement and offers the following comments:

1. Page 4-5, Transmission Facilities - Although the transmission facilities and corridors have been addressed in this section and in Sections 4.6.2 and 9.4, a more detailed analysis should have been done. The approximate number of structures to be located in floodplains and wetlands should be given. Additionally, it is suggested that where transmission lines cross agricultural farmland, structures should be placed on section and quarter lines to the maximum extent practicable to minimize the loss of prime farmland.

2. Page 4-9, Dewatering during Construction - The first paragraph states, "the performance of slurry walls is very dependent on the geology of the site and the nature of the groundwater flow." The second paragraph states in part that hydrogeological data necessary for an accurate analysis is not available. Yet the report concludes that slurry walls will prevent the lowering of ground water within the immediate project area. This analysis seems contradictory.

3. Page 4-7, Turbidity and Sedimentation - Further analysis and support data of the sediment grain profile within the trench site should be included. Since the trench spoil is proposed to be left exposed to current and wave action for an extended period of time, the potential for damage and injury to the aquatic system from excessive turbidity and sedimentation could be significant. It is suggested that a turbidity monitoring program be established during water related construction with corrective actions outlined for implementation if turbidity levels become excessive.

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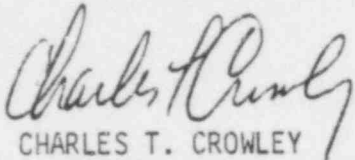
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4. Page 4-7 - In discussing floodplains, it would be more appropriate to determine the 500-year floodplain since this facility can be termed a "critical action facility" as described in Executive Order 11988. Additionally, transmission line impacts on floodplains should be expanded to include approximate numbers of towers to be located in floodplains.

5. Page 5-3 - Although a change in temperature of 37<sup>0</sup>F seems rather extreme for the cooling system, the Environmental Protection Agency's apparent approval of this impact and the mixing zone appears to have addressed our concerns.

The report discussed wetlands and the possible project impact in a vague manner. Executive Order 11990 does not appear to have been adequately addressed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Should you have any questions, please contact this office.



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Environmental and Energy Requirements  
Division