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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Suite 322
315 South Allen Street
State College, PA 16801

June 9, 1983

50-412

Mr. Wayne McIntire
Duquesne Light Company
Beaver Valley Power Station
P.O. Box 4
Shippingport, PA 15077

Dear Mr. McIntire:

The Department has requested that we comment directly to you on the Environmental Report Operating License Stage for the Beaver Valley Power Station Unit 2, Shippingport, Beaver County, Pennsylvania. This provides technical assistance only and does not constitute the review comments of the Department of the Interior on the forthcoming application for an operating license.

The environmental report adequately describes existing fish and wildlife resources within the project area and, in general, the adverse impacts which may occur to those resources. There are only three areas of concern to us which are not adequately addressed in the report.

The report states (page 2.2-4) that upstream phytoplankton sites have consistently shown higher counts than downstream sites. However, it concludes that the power plant has not caused the decline downstream. The report does not provide evidence or an explanation to support this conclusion and should be revised accordingly.

The fish collection data show an increase in the abundance of sport fishes in the Cumberland pool through 1980. In Section 5.1.3.1 of the report, impingement estimates were calculated from data for the period 1976-80. If the trend toward increased numbers of sport fishes continues, this would affect your impingement estimates. Therefore, we recommend that calculations be made with the most recent fish impingement data.

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Section 5.1.3.3 discusses impacts from increased water temperatures on resident fishes but is silent about potential adverse impacts from reverse thermal shock during winter shutdowns. A temperature drop of 30°F in winter would kill most fish within the discharge temperature plume. Therefore, we recommend all scheduled shutdowns be accomplished during the summer when water temperature differences are minimal. Only emergency shutdowns should be performed during colder weather. We recommend the report be amended to discuss the potential adverse impacts from cold weather shutdowns.

Sincerely,


Charles J. Kulp
Field Supervisor

CC:
PFC - Miller
PGC - Sitlinger
NRC, Washington, D.C.