



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

446 Neal Street
Cookeville, TN 38501

November 24, 1999

Dr. James L. Elmore
U.S. Department of Energy
Oak Ridge Operations Office
P.O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

Dear Dr. Elmore:

Thank you for your letter and enclosures of October 21, 1999, regarding additional project-related analyses to be included as an appendix to the Y-12 Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement (SWEIS) at the Oak Ridge Reservation in Anderson County, Tennessee. Our May 12, 1999, comments for the notice of intent (NOI) remain relevant and applicable for the SWEIS. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) personnel have reviewed the additional information submitted and offer the following comments for consideration.

According to our records, the federally endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) may also occur in or near the project impact area. Qualified biologists should assess potential impacts and determine if the proposed project may affect the species. We recommend that you submit a copy of your assessment and finding to this office for review and concurrence. A finding of "may affect" could require the initiation of formal consultation procedures.

These constitute the comments of the U.S. Department of the Interior in accordance with provisions of the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884, as amended: 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). We appreciate the opportunity to comment. Should you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact Steve Alexander of my staff at 931/528-6481, ext. 210, or via e-mail at steven_alexander@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

Lee A. Barclay, Ph.D.
Field Supervisor

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