

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release June 15, 1978

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY ANDRUS ON
SUPREME COURT'S SNAIL DARTER DECISION

The Supreme Court decision will be studied very carefully within the Department of the Interior. It obviously could place a great responsibility on those of us who have the duty of administering the Endangered Species Act; it clearly requires us to consult with the Tennessee Valley Authority, as we are already doing, more closely than ever, both to save the snail darter and to make the best use possible of the investment made in the project so far.

Assistant Secretary of the Interior Robert L. Herbst, who is responsible for fish and wildlife programs of this Department, will meet with TVA Commissioner S. David Freeman tomorrow morning to develop a basic agenda for how our two agencies will continue to proceed. Any final resolution of this issue will have to take into consideration the wishes of the people most concerned, the need for jobs in the region, the American Indian community in that area, the environmental factors, and many other legitimate interests locally, regionally and nationally.

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