



NRC NEWS

**UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, REGION II**

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NRC TO MEET WITH TVA NUCLEAR OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS SAFETY PERFORMANCE AT WATTS BAR NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with Tennessee Valley Authority officials on Wednesday, April 16, to discuss the results of NRC's annual assessment of safety performance at the Watts Bar nuclear power plant near Spring City, Tennessee.

The meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. at the Best Western Motel in Sweetwater, Tennessee, just off I-75. The public is invited to observe the meeting, and NRC officials will be available before the conclusion of the meeting to answer any questions.

A letter from the NRC to TVA addresses plant safety performance during the previous year and forms the basis for the meeting discussions. The letter states that, overall, Watts Bar operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and that plant performance was at a level requiring no additional NRC inspection beyond normal baseline activities. The letter, available from Region II Public Affairs and on the NRC web site at www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/wb_2002q4.pdf, says the NRC staff will review activities at Watts Bar in response to a 2002 NRC Bulletin on reactor pressure vessel head and vessel head nozzle penetration programs and continue inspections of the plant's implementation of NRC security advisories and Orders to evaluate compliance with new requirements that may be ordered. It also says that the NRC will continue to inspect the lay-up and preservation of Watts Bar Unit 2 which has been deferred by TVA and has not received an operating license.

Current performance indicators for Watts Bar Unit 1 are available at www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/WB1/wb1_chart.html.

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