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NRC STAFF ISSUES FINAL SUPPLEMENT  
TO ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT ON WATTS BAR

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued a final supplement to an environmental impact statement it first issued in 1978 related to proposed operation of Tennessee Valley Authority's two Watts Bar nuclear power plants near Spring City, Tennessee.

The two units have not yet been licensed for operation. Unit 1 was nearly complete in 1985 but a number of deficiencies were identified by employees and confirmed in NRC inspections. Corrective measures are still underway. TVA has decided not to complete Unit 2 on its own.

Each of the pressurized water reactors is designed to produce about 1,160 megawatts of electrical power.

Because of the extended period of time since the previous review and some changes in the Watts Bar plant design and proposed methods of operation, the NRC staff issued for public comment, in December last year, a draft supplement that evaluated the environmental impacts that have occurred. The environmental topics evaluated included regional demography, land and water use, meteorology, terrestrial and aquatic ecology, radiological and non-radiological impacts on humans and the environment, socioeconomic impacts and environmental justice.

After consideration of the public comments, the staff has concluded that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the changes in plant design and proposed methods of operation. The staff's conclusion is not a final licensing action.

Copies of the final supplement to the environmental impact statement will be available for public inspection at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20555 and the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Library, 1001 Broad Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee. Copies may be purchased from the U.S. Government Printing Office, P.O. Box 37082, Washington, DC 20013-7082 in about two weeks.

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