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NRC STAFF ISSUES SUPPLEMENT TO FINAL
ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT ON WATTS BAR

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is seeking public comment on changes in 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 been licensed for operation as yet. 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 is reevaluating whether to complete Unit 2.

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 changes in the Watts Bar plant design and proposed methods of operation, the NRC staff decided to prepare a draft supplement that evaluates the environmental impacts that have occurred. The environmental topics evaluated include 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. The staff has concluded that there are no significant environmental impacts from changes in plant design and proposed methods of operations.

The NRC is seeking comments on the draft supplement from Federal and state agencies as well as interested members of the public. After consideration of the comments, a final supplement will be prepared containing the staff's final conclusion regarding the environmental impact of plant operation.

Comments on the draft supplement are due by January 30, 1995, and should be sent to the Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555. Single copies of the draft supplement may be obtained by writing to the NRC Publications Section, Attention: Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office,

P.O. Box 37082, Washington, D.C. 20013-7082 or the Office of Administration, Distribution and Mail Service Section, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001.

Copies of the draft supplement will be available for public inspection at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and the local Public Document Room for Watts Bar at the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Bicentennial Library, 1001 Broad Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

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