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NRC STAFF ISSUES FULL-POWER LICENSE FOR WATTS BAR 1

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff today issued a license to Tennessee Valley Authority authorizing full-power operation of the Watts Bar Unit 1 Nuclear Power Plant near Spring City, Tennessee.

NRC Chairman Shirley Ann Jackson, supported by Commissioner Kenneth C. Rogers, authorized the staff action on Tuesday.

Senior TVA officials, in a public meeting January 31 at NRC, briefed the Commissioners on the results of low-power testing at Watts Bar and their readiness to receive a full-power operating license. At the briefing, the NRC staff presented its findings on TVA's readiness and recommended issuance of the license.

Inspectors from the NRC's Region II office in Atlanta, Georgia, will provide around-the-clock monitoring of the initial phases of Watts Bar 1 operation beyond the five-percent level and as the plant begins producing power on the grid. Inspectors also will monitor certain power tests later on.

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