

November 8, 1994

Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, Jr.  
President, TVA Nuclear and  
Chief Nuclear Officer  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
6A Lookout Place  
1101 Market Street  
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

SUBJECT: EXTENSION OF CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION DATES - WATTS BAR NUCLEAR  
PLANT, UNIT 1 (TAC M89205)

In response to TVA's letter dated September 19, 1994, requesting an extension of the completion dates for the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 1, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued an order extending the construction completion date. In lieu of the latest completion date of December 31, 1994, the construction completion date of Construction Permit No. CPPR-91 has been extended to December 31, 1995.

Copies of the Order and the staff's safety evaluation of your request are enclosed for your information. The order has been sent to the Office of the Federal Register for publication. The Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact was published in the Federal Register on November 8, 1994 (59FR55713).

Sincerely,

Original signed by:  
Peter S. Tam, Senior Project Manager  
Project Directorate II-4  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-390

Enclosures: 1. Order Extending Construction  
Completion Date  
2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosure: See next page

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Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, Jr.  
Tennessee Valley Authority

cc:

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## WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT

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The Honorable Garland Lanksford  
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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matters of	)	
TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY	)	
(Watts Bar Nuclear Plant,	)	Docket Nos. 50-390
Unit 1)	)	

ORDER

Tennessee Valley Authority (the permittee) is the current holder of Construction Permit No. CPPR-91, issued by the Atomic Energy Commission on January 23, 1973, for construction of the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 1. The facility is currently under construction at the permittee's site on the west bank of the Tennessee River approximately 50 miles northeast of Chattanooga, Tennessee.

On September 19, 1994, the permittee filed a request pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55(b) for an extension of the completion date from December 31, 1994 to December 31, 1995. The proposed action is needed because the construction, modification, and preoperational testing of the facility is not yet fully completed. Following completion of hot functional testing, the permittee conducted an extensive review of the remaining scope of work required to complete the unit. The review indicates fuel load for the unit will occur in the spring of 1995. The requested extension period includes contingency in case any adjustments to the schedule are needed. The NRC staff has concluded that good cause has been shown for the delays, and that the extension is for a reasonable period. The basis for these conclusions is set forth in the staff's evaluation. The staff has further concluded that the requested extension involves no significant hazards consideration.

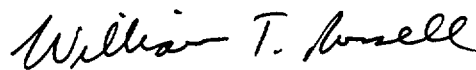
and that, therefore, no prior public notice is needed.

The NRC staff has prepared an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact, which was published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on November 8, 1994 . Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that extending the construction completion dates will have no significant impact on the environment.

The applicant's letter dated September 19, 1994, and the NRC staff's letter and Safety Evaluation of the request for extension of the construction permit, dated November 8, 1994 , are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, D.C. 20555 and at the Chattanooga-County Library, 1001 Broad Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the latest completion date for Construction Permit No. CPPR-91 is extended to December 31, 1995.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



William T. Russell, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Dated at Rockville, Maryland  
this 8th day of November 1994



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELATING TO REQUEST FOR EXTENSION

OF CONSTRUCTION PERMIT NO. CPPR-91

WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 1

DOCKET NOS. 50-390

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Two construction permits were issued to Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA or permittee) on January 23, 1973, authorizing construction of the Watts Bar Nuclear (WBN) Plant, Units 1 and 2 (the facility), in Rhea County, Tennessee. Currently, Construction Permit CPPR-91 specifies December 31, 1994, as the latest date for completion of Unit 1. Construction Permit CPPR-92 specifies June 30, 1997, as the latest date for completion of construction for Unit 2.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55(b), the permittee requested that the date for Unit 1 be extended to December 31, 1995. The permittee's request for this construction permit extension is contained in its letter dated September 19, 1994.

2.0 DISCUSSION

The proposed action is needed because the construction and modification of the facility is not yet fully completed. In its September 19, 1994, letter the permittee stated that following completion of hot functional testing, an extensive review of the remaining scope of work required to complete the unit was conducted. The resulting detailed completion plan indicates fuel load for the unit will occur in the spring of 1995. The requested extension period includes contingency in case any adjustments to the schedule are needed.

The design and construction of Unit 1 was completed in March 1985. At that time, the NRC staff had completed its review of the Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR) and documented its evaluation in the Safety Evaluation Report, NUREG-0847 and its Supplements 1 through 4. However, several issues have been raised since then by the NRC, as a result of TVA employees' concerns, and many internal and external TVA audits and reviews. In response to these issues, TVA undertook a vigorous recovery program at WBN beginning in 1986, which included many significant programs to identify root causes for these issues and develop and implement programs for their resolution. Some of these programs necessitated extensive modifications to parts of the unit. A number of these programs have been completed and others are in their final stages of implementation. In June 1990, the staff reactivated the licensing activities, resulting in issuance of Safety Evaluation Report (NUREG-0847) Supplements 5 through 13 since that date.

ENCLOSURE 2

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The construction delay described above is the result of concerns raised by NRC, TVA employees and TVA contractors. These concerns must be resolved satisfactorily prior to issuance of the operating license to ensure the safe operation of the facility. Therefore, good cause has been shown for the extension requested by the permittee and the requested extension is for a reasonable period of time.

### 3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.21, 51.32, and 51.35, an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact have been prepared and published in the Federal Register on November 8, 1994 (59FR55713). Accordingly, based upon the environmental assessment, the staff has determined that extending the construction completion date will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

Based on the review of the permittee's request, the NRC staff concludes that the factors discussed above constitute good cause for the delay in the completion of construction under 10 CFR 50.55(b). The permittee, as stated above, is in the process of implementing the corrective programs. The staff believes that the requested extension period is acceptable.

As a result of the staff's review of the Watts Bar Final Safety Analysis Report to date and considering the nature of the delay, the staff finds that the only modification proposed by the permittee to the existing construction permit is an extension of the latest completion date. This extension does not allow any work of a type not previously authorized by the existing construction permits to be performed.

### 4.0 CONCLUSION

Based on the above evaluation, the staff concludes that pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55(b), the permittee has shown good cause for the delay and that the requested extension is for a reasonable period of time. Since the request is merely for more time to complete construction already authorized under Construction Permit No. CPPR-91 and does not seek authorization for activities not previously authorized, it does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated, or create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated, or involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety. Accordingly, the staff has concluded that the action does not involve a significant hazards consideration and no prior notice of issuance of the extension to the latest construction completion date is necessary in accordance with 10 CFR 50.92(a).

Based upon the above evaluation, the staff has concluded that the issuance of an Order extending the latest completion date for construction of Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 1, is reasonable and should be authorized. The latest completion date should be extended to December 31, 1995.

Principal Contributor: Peter S. Tam

Dated: November 8, 1994