

July 3, 2006

Mr. Karl W. Singer
Chief Nuclear Officer and
Executive Vice President
Tennessee Valley Authority
6A Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

SUBJECT: WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 1 — PRIORITY CHANGE FOR
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION (TS) CHANGE TS-06-09, "REVISION OF
ULTIMATE HEAT SINK (UHS) TEMPERATURE" (TAC No. MD1460)

Dear Mr. Singer:

By letter dated May 8, 2006 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML061310178), the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) applied for an amendment to the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 1 (WBN), Operating License No. NPF-90. The proposed change would modify the facility Technical Specifications by increasing the maximum temperature limit of the plant's ultimate heat sink (UHS or Tennessee River) from 85 degrees Fahrenheit (EF) to 88 EF. TVA requested prompt staff action to approve this amendment by early July 2006 in order to avoid a potential plant shutdown.

Subsequently, by electronic transmission dated May 17, 2006, Mr. Paul Pace of your staff stated that recent changes in environmental conditions (cooler temperatures combined with increased rainfall in the Tennessee Valley region) have caused the projected rising trend in Tennessee River temperatures to decrease. Based on current conditions and projections, the Tennessee River temperature is forecast to remain below WBN's current UHS temperature limit. Therefore, it is our understanding that TVA no longer needs prompt staff action, and that a routine review may be conducted for which TVA has requested that the approval date be changed to June 1, 2007.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Douglas V. Pickett, Senior Project Manager
Plant Licencing Branch II-2
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-390

cc w/enclosure: See next page

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Mr. Karl W. Singer
Tennessee Valley Authority

WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT

cc:

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