



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 21, 1994

Docket Nos. 50-390
and 50-391

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: WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT - REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
RELATING TO FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT (TAC NOS. M88691 AND
M88692)

By letter dated March 9, 1994, the staff requested the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to provide updated environmental information. By letter dated May 18, 1994, TVA provided a report entitled "Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Review of Final Environmental Statement," dated August 1993. The staff has performed an initial review of that report and determined that further information is needed for the staff to complete its review.

As stated in the March 9, 1994, letter, the purpose of the request was to obtain updated environmental information that would allow the staff to determine if it is necessary to issue a supplement to the Watts Bar Final Environmental Statement (FES). Part 51.92 of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations requires the NRC to prepare a supplement to a final environmental impact statement if the proposed action has not been taken, and

"There are substantial changes in the proposed action that are relevant to environmental concerns; or

"There are significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed action or its impacts."

Due to the extended period of time since the issuance of the Watts Bar FES (1978), the staff believes it is reasonable to assume that the affected environment could have changed significantly. Therefore, the staff is requesting TVA to provide sufficient updated environmental information so the staff can determine if it is necessary to issue a supplement to the Watts Bar FES. Regulatory Guide 4.2, Revision 2, "Preparation of Environmental Reports for Nuclear Power Stations" identifies information in Chapters 2-8 and 12 that will assist the staff in reaching its determination. The staff is prepared to meet with TVA to discuss in more detail the information that could be provided.

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Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley

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Chapter 12 of the Regulatory Guide 4.2 requests applicants to provide a list and status of all licenses, permits, and other approvals of station construction and operations required by Federal, State, local, and regional authorities. Since the issuance of the Watts Bar FES, several environmental regulations have been promulgated and many others revised. Therefore, TVA should also provide information on significant changes in the status of compliance with applicable Federal, State, local, and regional environmental statutes and other regulations.

TVA's May 18th submittal discussed seven endangered species, four of which were not discussed in the FES. TVA's submittal also stated that the impacts associated with operation of Watts Bar could affect the endangered species identified. The Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended, requires federal agencies to ensure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by such agency is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of the critical habitat for such species. Furthermore, federal agencies are required to enter formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service if the federal action may adversely affect a listed species or designated critical habitat. Therefore, the staff is requesting that TVA provide more detailed information on how the operation of Watts Bar could affect the endangered and threatened species identified. This will allow the staff to determine if consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is necessary.

We request your timely response. This information is needed to support a projected fuel loading date which may be as early as December 1994.

This requirement affects nine or fewer respondents and, therefore, is not subject to Office of Management and Budget review under P.L. 96-511.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:
Steven A. Varga, Director
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

*cc: see next page
see above
corrected
wed 6/21/94
ATT*

cc: See next page
*SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCE

OFC	PDII-4/AM	PDII-4/PM	ADAP	OGC	PDII-4/D
NAME	BClariton	PTam	DCrutchfield		FHebdon
DATE	6/14/94	6/16/94	6/14/94	6/20/94	6/21/94

OFC	DRPE:AD	DRPE:D	ADAP:BC*		
NAME	GLainas	SVarga	SNewberry		
DATE	6/21/94	6/21/94	06/14/94		

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