

11/21/72

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

In the Matter of)
)
TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY) Docket Nos. 50-390, 391
(Watts Bar Nuclear Plant)
Units 1 and 2))

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of letter from John L. Wellborn, Tennessee Office of Urban and Federal Affairs, dated November 21, 1972 requesting to make a limited appearance in the captioned matter have been served on the following by deposit in the United States mail, first class or air mail, this 30th day of November 1972:

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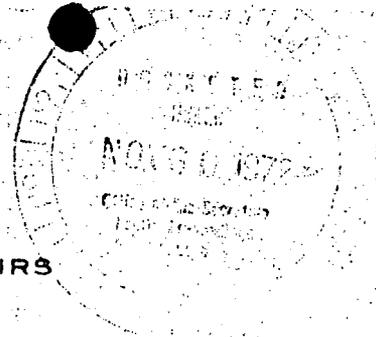
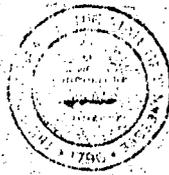
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November 21, 1972

REC'D REGISTER 50-390
PROD. & WASTE TAG. 50-391

Mr. W. B. McCool, Secretary
Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D.C. 20545

Attention: Chief, Public Proceedings Branch

Dear Mr. McCool:

On behalf of the State of Tennessee, I thank you for this opportunity to make a limited appearance on the record of the AEC hearing on the Watts Bar Nuclear Power Generating Plant, held 20-21 November 1972 in Dayton, Tennessee.

This office is charged by Governor Winfield Dunn with responsibility for coordinating Federal development proposals in Tennessee with the policies, plans and priorities of his Administration. To that end, we and the Tennessee Valley Authority have worked to develop formal project coordination procedures and increasingly productive informal working relationships between the Tennessee Valley Authority and State agency staff.

Formal coordination between the Governor's office and the Tennessee Valley Authority on the Watts Bar Nuclear Power Plant began in May of 1971 with a State review and critique of the project's draft Environmental Impact Statement. This study continued through July of that year, at which time our State agencies identified to the Tennessee Valley Authority our specific concerns about the project. These concerns were followed up in April of 1972 by State review of the Environmental Impact Statement Supplement and related materials. Remaining State concerns were explored in October of 1972 in meetings between this office, State agency staff, the Tennessee Valley Authority agency staffs, and representatives of the Tennessee Valley Authority Planning Office and of the Tennessee Valley Authority General Manager's Office. Further informal meetings and studies are continuing at this time. We are pleased with the degree of cooperation we are experiencing with the Tennessee Valley Authority personnel on this and other projects; and we look forward to continuing this mutually beneficial working relationship.

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Throughout the months that the State agencies have been examining the implications of the Watts Bar proposal, a concern of the Tennessee Game and Fish Commission and the Tennessee Department of Public Health has been the immediate and the eventual effects of plant construction and operation on aquatic life, particularly on the reproductive sauger runs and the commercially valuable mussel sanctuary at that point in the river. We are confident that the Tennessee Valley Authority will fulfill its promise to the State to use any and all means known to its technical staff to prevent damage to aquatic life during construction and operation of the plant. Extreme caution will be necessary to control dredging and siltation at the site; we anticipate that diking and similar techniques will be used to accomplish this.

Together, the State and the Tennessee Valley Authority have explored all available data that could inform and guide our action relative to these problems. We recognize that information in this field is not complete. But we place our confidence in the Tennessee Valley Authority's promise to do all that technologically can be done to protect these special facets of the public's interest.

A second aspect of the Watts Bar project which has been of significant concern to the State is, of course, the question of public health and safety. The State of Tennessee has no regulatory jurisdiction over the on-site operation of nuclear reactors. But our Department of Public Health, through its Division of Industrial and Radiological Health, does have responsibilities for the health and safety of Tennesseans working and residing in a reactor's physical area of influence.

In accordance with its responsibilities, the Division conducted thorough reviews of the Tennessee Valley Authority Environmental Impact Statement materials of 1971 and 1972 and participated in conferences with Tennessee Valley Authority exploring health and safety questions identified in its reviews. Representatives of the Division and the Environmental Protection Agency toured the proposed site with Tennessee Valley Authority officials in May of 1972. And recognizing the need for appropriate pre-planning to cope with possible radiation incidents, the Tennessee Valley Authority and the Division will develop jointly a Radiation Emergency Plan for the site and surrounding area. This plan will be completed prior to initiation of plant operation.

On the basis of this coordination, the Tennessee Department of Public Health is of the opinion that the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant can be operated without undue risk to the health and safety

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of the citizenry. We are confident that maintenance and operation of the reactor will be administered so as not to abridge the high safety factors designed into the plant.

Sincerely,

John L. Wellborn

John L. Wellborn
Grant Review Coordinator

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