

ENVIRON, FILE (NEPA)



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

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JUL 1971

Dr. F. E. Gartrell, Director
Environmental Research & Development
Tennessee Valley Authority
Chattanooga, Tenn. 37041

Dear Dr. Gartrell:

This is in response to memorandum type letter of 20 May 1971 addressed to Mr. Herbert R. De Simone, Assistant Secretary for Environment and Urban Systems, DOT, concerning the draft environmental impact statement for the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant to be constructed below the TVA Watts Bar Dam Reservation on the Tennessee River in Rhea County, Tennessee.

The concerned operating administrations and staff of the Department of Transportation have reviewed the draft statement. It is the determination of this Department that the impact of this project upon transportation is minimal. Noted from the Federal Railroad Administration review of the draft statement was the following observation:

We take no general exception to the draft environmental statement. It is noted, however, that the Watts Bar Steam Plant, with a capacity of 240 MW, has been used at only 1% of its capacity since 1945. The question is raised whether the projected power needs that are used to justify the building of Nuclear Units 1 and 2 might not also dictate the use of this plant. From the statement, it would appear that full capacity operation of the steam plant would materially alter the environmental impact, particularly from the standpoint of air pollution.

The Department of Transportation recommends that the project be constructed at as early a date as possible.

The opportunity for this Department to review and comment upon the draft environmental statement for the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2 is appreciated.

Sincerely,

R. Y. Edwards
R. Y. EDWARDS
Rear Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard
Chief, Office of Public and International Affairs

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