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3-15-95

William Russell, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington D.C. 20555

Docket No.
50-390

Dear Mr. Russell,

I would like to request a public meeting on the current status of the Tennessee Valley Authority's Watts Bar Nuclear Plant. I am sure you are aware of this facility's long and troubled history. The East Tennessee media has done a wonderful job of reporting to the public the outcome of recent NRC-TVA management meetings. However, the general public has not had an opportunity to comment on Watts Bar and related safety issues for over twenty years. In fact, many young people now active in the effort to present the truth about Watts Bar were not even born when it was granted a construction permit by your agency on January 23 1972. The NRC has expressed a total lack of confidence in the TVA's QA/QC program at Watts Bar. Many residents of the TN valley have the same skeptical attitude about the TVA's ability to operate a safe nuclear facility. The Board of the TVA refuses to consider other options for Watts Bar. The management

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at Watts Bar appears to be a bunch of bungling idiots who could not even operate a hot dog stand let alone a nuclear power plant! The NRC has stated to the press that it is finding the same problems that it found there ten years ago!

TVA's current aggressive push to bring this facility on line this summer appears to be quite dangerous in light of the large number of open safety concerns requiring NRC attention. An obvious example of this is the numerous "industrial incidents" that have occured at Watts Bar over the last year. The most notable of these is the fireball that occured on June 22 1994 during the hot functional test and was not made public untill late July. I am also concerned about the NRC's willingness to be as strict with the Watts Bar Management and QA/QC program as is necessary. The NRC seems to be willing to allow major safety concerns to be "justified as constructed" in order to save money and man hours. I understand you are under pressure from Congress to reduce expenses but i think a safe nuclear plant is more important than budget concerns. Please set the public meeting on the evening of the next NRC-TVA WB Management meeting on April 12 1995 in Spring City, TN. Please make all the comments, questions and answers at the meeting part of the public record regarding Watts Bar.

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