



50-390

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 5, 1995

Ms. Jane A. Fleming
National Nuclear Safety Network
8 Oceanwood Drive
Duxbury, MA 02332

Dear Ms. Fleming:

I am responding to your letter of August 22, 1995, to Dr. Shirley A. Jackson, Chairman, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

In your letter, you expressed a concern that the public meeting on September 5, 1995, is scheduled for only one day. The staff has scheduled the meeting from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. to accommodate the availability of members of the public. The staff participants in that meeting are all of the personnel who have had years of experience working on Watts Bar, and who have the corporate knowledge and memory on this plant. The staff will make every effort to give everyone a chance to speak at the meeting. If everyone is not able to comment during the meeting, the staff will accept written comments by mail or at any of the subsequent meetings that are open to the public. The staff is always willing to hear from members of the public. For example, the staff continues to have frequent discussions and phone calls about Watts Bar with such organizations as the Foundation for Global Sustainability, Public Citizen, and Greenpeace to hear their comments and suggestions.

You note in your letter that during the Commission briefing on July 11, 1995, the staff said that TVA had estimated that it would take about 6 weeks from the completion of HFT 2 to complete the remaining work required before fuel load. Now that TVA has completed HFT 2, TVA is developing more detailed schedules of the remaining work. It is our understanding that TVA will be prepared to discuss these schedules during the meeting with the staff on September 6, 1995. That meeting is open to public observation, not participation; however, let me reiterate that we will accept comments as explained above. The NRC will not issue an operating license for Watts Bar until we have reasonable assurance that the plant has been constructed in accordance with NRC requirements (all applicable regulations in Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations), and that TVA is judged by the staff to be ready to operate the plant safely. Supplement 15 of the Watts Bar Safety Evaluation Report (SER, NUREG-0847) provides the current status of the staff's review of Watts Bar's compliance.

In your letter you expressed a concern about the staff's use of INPO documents. Although the staff reviews INPO documents to ensure that we are aware of the findings, the staff does not rely on INPO documents to support findings that are made by the NRC.

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The staff is preparing an integrated assessment of the historically significant problems associated with the quality of construction at Watts Bar. The assessment will be published in a supplement to the SER and will address the staff's review of the construction quality and operational readiness of Watts Bar Unit 1.

In your letter you expressed some concerns about the ability of the allegation management system to handle allegations in a timely manner. The NRC procedures for addressing allegations includes a procedure for addressing allegations filed late in the licensing process. If an allegation having a potential impact on the safety of a facility affects a pending licensing decision, the allegation is considered "late." The staff will determine whether the allegation involves a matter previously considered during the licensing review or during the investigation of prior allegations. If found to contain new safety significant information, the allegation will be evaluated further, and must be resolved before any licensing action can be taken.

Sincerely,
 [original signed by F. Gillespie]
for William T. Russell, Director
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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NAME	RZimmerman	WRusse ¹	JTaylor	SJ	SBurns
DATE	08/31/95	09/1/95	9/5/95	9/1/95	9/1/95

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ACTION

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 09/11/95

EDO CONTROL: 0000615
DOC DT: 08/22/95
FINAL REPLY:

Jane A. Fleming

TO:

Chairman Jackson

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** GRN **

CRC NO: 95-0759

Russell

DESC:

ROUTING:

PUBLIC HEARINGS RE THE LICENSING PROCESS FOR
WATTS BAR

Taylor
Milhoan
Thompson
Blaha
Cyr, OGC
Ebnetter, RII

DATE: 08/25/95

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NRR

Russell

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Keep Chairman informed re this issue.
Ref. EDO 574

NRR RECEIVED:

August 25, 1995

NRR ACTION:

DRPE:VARGA

NRR ROUTING:

RUSSELL
MIRAGLIA
THADANI
ZIMMERMAN
CRUTCHFIELD
BOHRER

ACTION
DUE TO NRR DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
BY Sept 6, '95

