

December 14, 1995

50-396/391

Ms. Amy Agigian
Boston Women's Health Book Collective
Box 192
West Somerville, Massachusetts 02144

Dear Ms. Agigian:

I am responding to your letter of November 15, 1995, addressed to Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Shirley Ann Jackson. You expressed your concerns about the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant and urged her to "put health first and take a stand against the plant." The NRC has conducted extensive inspections and reviews of Watts Bar, and concluded that construction of Watts Bar Unit 1 had been completed in accordance with the Construction Permit and applicable NRC rules and regulations. In addition, the staff concluded that TVA has the requisite staff, programs, and procedures in place to operate Unit 1 in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations. Thus, on November 9, 1995, the NRC issued a low-power operating license to Watts Bar Unit 1. The staff plans to brief the Commission on January 5, 1996, and request authorization to allow the staff to issue a full power operating license when TVA is ready.

Concerns essentially identical to yours were raised by members of the public in a meeting with the NRC staff held in Sweetwater, Tennessee, on September 5, 1995. The NRC staff responded to those concerns in Enclosure 3 of the meeting summary dated November 3, 1995 (copy enclosed). You may find Sections 1.0, 2.0, 3.0 and 13.0 especially pertinent to your concerns.

If you have any additional questions, or would like to obtain copies of any document referenced in the enclosure, please contact Mr. Peter Tam, the NRC project manager for Watts Bar, at (301) 415-1451.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:
WILLIAM T. RUSSELL

William T. Russell, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: Meeting Summary w/Enclosure 3

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\AGIGIAN

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THE CHAIRMAN'S
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