

Ms. Carol McGeehan
 568 West 31st
 Holland, Michigan 49423

February 15, 1996

Dear Ms. McGeehan:

I am responding to your undated letter addressed to Shirley Ann Jackson, Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. You expressed a number of concerns regarding Watts Bar Nuclear Plant.

The NRC has conducted extensive inspections and reviews of Watts Bar, and concluded that construction of Watts Bar Unit 1 has been completed in accordance with the Construction Permit and applicable NRC rules and regulations. There is reasonable assurance that the plant activities can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's 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 Commission met publicly with TVA on January 31, 1996, to consider issuance of a full-power license. On February 6, 1996, the Commission authorized the staff to issue a full-power license. The staff issued the full-power license on February 7, 1996.

You expressed concerns about the cost of Watts Bar and its core meltdown probability. These issues were discussed at a public meeting on September 5, 1995. A copy of a portion of that meeting summary is enclosed for your information. The cost of a nuclear plant is not within the jurisdictional purview of NRC (see Section 1.0 of the summary). Further, the staff has evaluated and found acceptable the estimated core damage frequency of Watts Bar (see Section 13.0 of the summary).

In your letter, you note that in August 1995, NRC delayed fuel loading at Watts Bar due to concerns about various issues including fire protection and radiation monitors. The staff subsequently reviewed these issues, and inspected the installations at Watts Bar. Based on these reviews, the staff found these systems to be acceptable, and documented the results of the review and inspection in Supplements to the Safety Evaluation Report and in Inspection Reports.

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

Sincerely,

Original signed by Frank J. Miraglia for
 William T. Russell, Director
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: Partial Summary of 9/5/95 Meeting
 DOCUMENT NAME: G:\MCGEEHAN

To receive a copy of this document, indicate in the box: "C" = Copy without attachment/enclosure
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OFFICE	PDII-3/LA*	PDII-3/PM*	PDII-3/D*	Tech Ed*	DRPE:DD*
NAME	Bclayton	PTam	FHebdon		JZwolinski
DATE	01/03/96	01/03/96	01/18/96	01/03/96	01/04/96
OFFICE	DRPE:D*	ADP*	NR*	EDO*	OCM#
NAME	SVarga	RZimmerman	WRussel		SJackson
DATE	01/04/96	01/05/96	01/18/96	01/22/96	02/14/96

#Approved with changes by Chairman and Commissioner Rogers on 2/14/96

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#1 2/15 NRC FILE CENTER COPY

ACTION

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: Carol McGeehan
Holland, Michigan

DUE: 01/09/96

EDO CONTROL: 0000910
DOC DT: *Undated*
FINAL REPLY:

TO: Chairman Jackson

FOR SIGNATURE OF : Russell

** GRN **

CRC NO: 95-1120

DESC: WATTS BAR

ROUTING: Taylor
Milhoan
Thompson
Blaha
Ebnetter, RII

DATE: 12/26/95

ASSIGNED TO: NRR

CONTACT: Russell

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Put EDO & Chairman on for concurrence.
Chairman's Office to review response prior
to dispatch.

NRR RECEIVED: DECEMBER 27, 1995
NRR ACTION: DRPE:VARGA

NRR ROUTING: RUSSELL
GILLESPIE
THADANI
ZIMMERMAN
CRUTCHFIELD
BOHRER

ACTION
DUE TO NRR DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
BY <i>Jan 4, 1996</i>

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

PAPER NUMBER: CRC-95-1120 LOGGING DATE: Dec 22 95
ACTION OFFICE: EDO
AUTHOR: CAROL MCGEEHAN
AFFILIATION: MICHIGAN
ADDRESSEE: CHAIRMAN JACKSON
LETTER DATE: Dec 22 95 FILE CODE: IDR-5 WATTS BAR
SUBJECT: WATTS BAR NUCLEAR POWER PLANT
ACTION: Direct Reply
DISTRIBUTION: CHAIRMAN, DSB
SPECIAL HANDLING: SECY TO ACK
CONSTITUENT:
NOTES: CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE SHOULD REVIEW RESPONSE PRIOR TO
DISPATCH
DATE DUE: Jan 9 96
SIGNATURE: . DATE SIGNED:
AFFILIATION:

Shirley Jackson

Watts Bar nuclear power plant is the only nuclear power plant still under active construction in the United States. Watts Bar is also the only nuclear power plant that has not received an operating license from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. 2/23

Watts Bar is in its 23rd year of construction by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and has already cost taxpayers \$8 billion. Today, TVA is spending over \$1 million every day to fix safety problems still being uncovered at the plant.

Watts Bar has one of the most dismal construction histories in the United States. In 1985 construction at the plant was halted due to employee safety concerns, only weeks before TVA planned on putting Watts Bar into operation. In 1992, TVA released a study rating Watts bar with the highest probability of a core meltdown accident of any plant in the United States. In August of 1995, NRC once again delayed fuel loading at Watts Bar; concerns ranged from the plant's fire protection program to incomplete radiation monitoring systems to questions about the adequacy of parts of the reactor design in seismic tests.

Now, TVA is once again attempting to put Watts Bar on line. In essence, their argument is that they need to make up all the money that has been sunk into Watts Bar. This is analogous to dumping more and more money into an old car, a lemon. Well, Watts bar is a LEMON that is costing taxpayers across the country millions of dollars and threatening the safety of American citizens in Tennessee.

During the first week in November, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is meeting on the safety concerns related to Watts Bar. I hope that you will take a look into these hearings and take a stand against this tax draining and environmental unsafe LEMON. I look forward to hearing from you about this matter.

Sincerely,

Carol McQueen
568 west 31 st
Holland
Mich
49423

Distribution w/o enclosures:

Docket File (50-390/391) (w/incoming)

PUBLIC (w/incoming)

EDO# 0000910

J. Taylor

J. Milhoan

H. Thompson

J. Blaha

W. Russell/F. Miraglia

R. Zimmerman

D. Crutchfield

A. Thadani

D. Crutchfield

K. Bohrer (EDO 0000910)

WBN Reading (w/incoming)

Green Ticket

J. Zwolinski

OGC

OPA

OCA

SECY CRC No. 95-1120

N. Olsen

C. Norsworthy

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