



50-390

UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

March 27, 1996

Ms. Faith Young  
1004 Dixon Springs Highway  
Dixon Springs, Tennessee 37057

Dear Ms. Young:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your February 14, 1996, Petition filed pursuant to 10 CFR § 2.206 regarding contamination of a lake near the Watts Bar nuclear power plant. In your Petition, you request that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) take action against the Watts Bar nuclear power plant for heightened contamination of plant emissions. Specifically, you ask that Watts Bar's operating license be rescinded until this issue is resolved.

In support of this request, you state that water in Watts Bar Lake, which is ultimately used to cool the Watts Bar plant's radioactive core, is itself contaminated by radioactive material contained in the lakebed sediment. Over the lifetime of Watts Bar's operation, you believe, uncontrolled access to the lake will disturb that sediment, in turn contaminating water drawn into the plant's cooling system. You assert that this issue of heightened radioactive emissions from the plant has never been previously addressed, and that no action is currently being contemplated to either restrict use of the lake or to remove radioactive material from the lake. In that regard, you also refer to a "record of decision" made by the Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tennessee Valley Authority, and the State of Tennessee, which is contained in an interagency document dated September 1995.

Your Petition has been referred to me pursuant to 10 CFR § 2.206 of the NRC's regulations. As provided by Section 2.206, action will be taken on your request within a reasonable time. I have enclosed, for your information, a copy of the notice that is being filed with the Office of the Federal Register for publication (Enclosure 1), and Management Directive (MD) 8.11, "Review Process for 10 CFR 2.206 Petitions" (Enclosure 2). Mr. Peter Tam (301-415-1451), NRC's Project Manager for Watts Bar, has been designated Petition Manager for your Petition. In accordance with MD 8.11, Mr. Tam will ensure that you are provided all NRC documents pertaining and relating to your Petition during its pendency.

You also request to be kept advised of the status of the review regarding your concerns, and you believe that it would be inappropriate to consult with the utility in advance or to proceed with NRC review without independent evaluation. Ms. Jean Lee of this office spoke with you by phone and informed you of the requirement imposed on the staff via MD 8.11, regarding all correspondence relating to a 10 CFR 2.206 petition be made public. Thus TVA will be informed through such correspondence. We understand that you consented.

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Ms. F. Young

As for that portion of your Petition which contains a request for documents under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), you were informed by Ms. Lee that your request has been transmitted to the NRC's FOIA Office for disposition. In closing, my staff will keep you informed of the status of your petition on a bimonthly frequency. I trust you find the staff's actions responsive to your concerns.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:  
WILLIAM T. RUSSELL

William T. Russell, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

- Enclosures: 1. Federal Register Notice
- 2. Management Directive 8.11

cc w/Enclosure 1: See next page

Distribution w/enclosure 1:

Docket File 50-390 (w/incoming)(10 CFR 2.206)

PUBLIC (w/incoming)

EDO# GT96091

J. Taylor

J. Milhoan

H. Thompson

J. Blaha

D. Crutchfield

A. Thadani

J. Lieberman

D. Crutchfield

P. Norry, ADM

K. Bohrer (EDO GT96091)

WBN Reading (w/incoming)

Green Ticket File

OGC

OPA

OCA

SECY CRC-96-0195

Charles Thomas

C. Jamerson

N. Olsen

C. Norsworthy

E. Merschhoff, RII

S. Ebnetter, RII

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DOCUMENT NAME: G:\WBN\YOUNG.LTR

\* SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCE

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OFFICE	PDII-3/LA	E	PDII-3/PM	E	PDII-3/D	E	Ed#	OGC *
NAME	BClayton		PTam		FHebdon		B. Calure	M. Rafky
DATE	03/27/96		03/25/96		03/25/96		03/18/96	03/20/96
OFFICE	DRPE:DD		DRPE:D		ADP# 4 3/25/96		NRR WTR	
NAME	JZwolinski		SVarga		RZimmerman		WRussell	
DATE	03/24/96		03/24/96		03/25/96		03/19/96	

WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT

cc w/Incoming and Enclosure 1:

Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, Jr.  
President, TVA Nuclear and  
Chief Nuclear Officer  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
6A Lookout Place  
1101 Market Street  
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

cc w/Enclosure 1:

Mr. O. J. Zeringue, Sr. Vice President  
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Mr. D. V. Kehoe, Manager  
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Mr. B. S. Schofield  
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Regional Administrator  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region II  
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Atlanta, GA 30323

Senior Resident Inspector  
Watts Bar Nuclear Plant  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
1260 Nuclear Plant Road  
Spring City, TN 37381

The Honorable Robert Aikman  
County Executive  
Rhea County Courthouse  
Dayton, TN 37321

The Honorable Garland Lanksford  
County Executive  
Meigs County Courthouse  
Decatur, TN 37322

Mr. Michael H. Mobley, Director  
Division of Radiological Health  
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