

830 Power Building

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37401

September 1, 1977



Mr. Edson G. Case, Acting Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Case:

Regulatory

File 571

In the Matter of the Application of) Docket Nos. 50-390
Tennessee Valley Authority) 50-391

Submitted herewith are six copies of the TVA response to an NRC question regarding environmental radiological ground water monitoring at Watts Bar Nuclear Plant. This information is in response to an oral request by O.D.T. Lynch, Jr., of the NRC staff to O. E. Gray of TVA on August 2, 1977.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Gilleland
Assistant Manager of Power

Subscribed and sworn to before
me this 1st day of Sept 1977

Notary Public

My Commission Expires 10/10/78

Enclosures: 6

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NRC Question:

Clarify the apparent discrepancy in the response to question 4.11, Supplement 1, and page 2.4-39 of the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant (WBNP) Final Environmental Statement (FES). Provide details of the proposed operational monitoring program to include the number of wells, location of wells, and justification for the selection of each.

TVA Response:

The environmental radiological monitoring program for WBNP was originally prepared in the early 1970's. At that time, plans were to sample at least four wells from farms located within five miles of the plant. In a subsequent review of the program, in light of the completion of approximately six observation wells on the plant site, it became apparent that the sampling of these wells would be more meaningful than sampling offsite wells since the onsite wells should give the earliest indication of the release of radioactivity to the ground water system. The program was revised in accordance with the WBNP FES, page 2.4-32, last paragraph, which states that the program is subject to change based on continued evaluation of existing programs.

The revised program, which is compatible with the ground water monitoring program outlined in Regulatory Guide 4.8, consists of the installation of an automatic sampler on the onsite well which would give the earliest indication of increased levels of radioactivity in ground water. If increased levels of radioactivity are found in samples from this well, consideration will be given to sampling additional wells in the area.

The well to be monitored will be selected after a recommendation is received from TVA's ground water hydrologists.

In addition, one well upgradient from the plant will be selected as a control station.