

830 Power Building

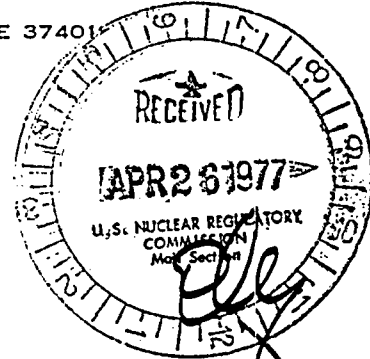
Regulatory

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TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37401

April 15, 1977



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

Dear Mr. Case:

In the Matter of the Application of) Docket Nos. 50-390
Tennessee Valley Authority) 50-392

This is in response to a letter of April 5, 1977, from William H. Regan, Jr., to Godwin Williams, Jr., regarding the formal environmental review questions for Watts Bar Nuclear Plant. This letter requested that we indicate whether it would be possible to meet the scheduled April 29, 1977, deadline for responding to the enclosed formal environmental review questions. Based on TVA's progress in developing responses to the subject questions, it appears that there will be only a few questions for which responses may not be prepared by the requested submittal date.

Question 3.4 under "Aquatic Ecology" requests larval fish data which may not be available in time to meet the deadline. If not, we expect to be able to respond to this question very shortly thereafter. The only other potential problem areas involve NRC staff questions on "Meteorology" and "Need for Power" which have not been received. If the questions dealing with "Meteorology" are essentially unchanged from those discussed during the February 23-24, 1977, site visit (and subsequent telephone communications with your staff specialists), and are received within the next few days, we can see no difficulty in supplying adequate responses on a timely basis.

As discussed with you and members of your staff on May 25, 1976, TVA believes a reevaluation of the need for power from the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant at this point in time is highly inappropriate. A construction permit was issued for the project in January 1973 based on an evaluation of need.

The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board for Hartsville made findings supporting construction of the Hartsville Nuclear Plants based on need for the Hartsville facility that implicitly assumed operation of the TVA Watts Bar Nuclear Plant units. The NRC staff performed

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calculations supporting the need for the Hartsville plants, recognizing that the Watts Bar units would be operating.

For these reasons we believe that an explicit reevaluation for the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant is of no value, and, indeed, is an unnecessary exercise.

Very truly yours,



J. E. Gilleland
Assistant Manager of Power

Subscribed and sworn to before
me this 15th day of April 1977 :


Notary Public

My Commission Expires 10/1/78