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Docket Nos. 50-327/328
 & 50-390/391

NOV 6 1973

Mr. James E. Watson
 Manager of Power
 Tennessee Valley Authority
 Chattanooga, Tennessee 37401

Dear Mr. Watson:

As you are aware, it is our objective to complete the AEC licensing review, including any public hearing, of an application for an operating license for a nuclear power plant in time to permit a licensing decision to be made at or before the time the plant is ready for fuel loading. In order to achieve this objective, it is essential that the application for an operating license be prepared and accepted for AEC review well in advance of the scheduled date of plant completion in order to permit our review to be completed in an orderly fashion. On the basis of past experience and currently projected staffing levels, I expect that a licensing decision at the operating licensing stage for an average uncontested case can be made about 18 months after acceptance of the application, and in about 21 months for an average contested case. Based on these considerations, we urge you to schedule preparation of the operating license application so that it can be accepted for AEC review approximately 24 months before the scheduled fuel loading date for the plant.

According to our understanding of your schedules for the Sequoyah and Watts Bar projects, you plan to load fuel about 18 and 16 months, respectively, after the scheduled date for submission of the operating license application. In light of the foregoing remarks, you are requested to reevaluate and modify these schedules. Please let me know promptly the results of your review.

Sincerely,

(Signed) John F. O'Leary

CB

OFFICE ►	L:OPS PHayward/lpc	L:OPS WGMcDonald	John F. O'Leary Director of Licensing MGroff	G/H 10/18/73	JFO'Leary EGCase 10/18/73	L 10/18/73
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