



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

September 27, 1994

APPLICANT: Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)
FACILITY: Watts Bar Nuclear Plants Units 1 and 2
SUBJECT: MEETING SUMMARY - SEPTEMBER 13, 1994, MEETING ON WATTS BAR ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

On September 13, 1994, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) held a public meeting to describe its approach for resolving and documenting environmental issues at Watts Bar Nuclear Plant (WBN). Attached is a copy of the slides used during NRC's presentation.

The NRC's presentation included a brief background of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a brief history of the NRC's environmental review activities for WBN, as well as a description of the NRC's ongoing environmental review and the staff's approach for documenting the environmental review.

The staff stated that its approach for documenting the environmental review would include: preparing a supplement to the Final Environmental Statement for WBN, issuing the supplement for public comment, discussing Severe Accident Mitigation Design Alternatives in the FES Supplement, and entering formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to satisfy the NRC's responsibility under the Endangered Species Act.

The NRC provided a sign-up sheet for members of the public who wished to receive a copy of the meeting summary and draft supplement. Upon conclusion of the NRC's presentation, the floor was opened for comments and questions.

Dr. Stephen Smith of the Foundation for Global Sustainability, provided several comments focused in three major areas; the need for a scoping meeting, biological issues, and socioeconomic issues. Dr. Smith stressed the need for a scoping meeting based on Watts Bar's history and that 20 years has passed since the start of construction of the plant and the operation of the plant. Dr. Smith had concerns about biological issues, such as a clear description of the molluscicide to be used at WBN, the effects of accidental additions of molluscicide into the Tennessee river, the effects of a thermal plume on the toxicity of the molluscicide, and biological oxygen demand. Dr. Smith also discussed socioeconomic issues, principally, the need for the plant.

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Ms. Ann Harris, a local resident, presented concerns that included the effects that some of the chemicals contained in the cooling tower blowdown water may have on the aquatic life in the Tennessee river, the effects of fuel oil spills, and the economics and population in the surrounding area.

After the meeting adjourned (approximately 8:00 pm), the staff remained to meet with and answer questions from any other members of the public. Some members of Earth First, an environmental group, subsequently arrived and the NRC gave them an overview of the presentation and then received comments.

Mr. John Johnson, of Earth First, spoke of concerns about offsite storage of radioactive waste, synergistic effects on the Tennessee river from the operation of Watts Bar and other industries along the river, the river's declining mussel population, and the protection and health of the ecosystem.

Scott C. Flanders, Project Engineer
 License Renewal and Environmental Review
 Project Directorate
 Associate Directorate for Advanced Reactors
 and License Renewal
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-390
 and 50-391

Attachment: Presentation slides

cc w/enclosures:
 See next page

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09/26/94	09/26/94	09/26/94	09/27/94

DOCUMENT NAME: FLANDERS WATTS BAR SUMMARY



WATTS BAR ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

NRC PUBLIC MEETING

SEPTEMBER 13, 1994

SWEETWATER, TENNESSEE

WATTS BAR ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

AGENDA

- ◆ Purpose
- ◆ Background
- ◆ NRC Review
- ◆ NRC Staff Approach
- ◆ Schedule

WATTS BAR ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

- ◆ **Purpose:** To inform interested members of the public how the NRC plans to proceed with the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant environmental review.

WATTS BAR ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

BACKGROUND

- ◆ The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires all federal agencies to consider the environment before taking a major federal action (i.e. licensing a plant, building a bridge, etc.)
- ◆ As a federal agency the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is required to comply with (NEPA). 10 CFR Part 51 is the NRC NEPA implementing regulation
- ◆ The Final Environmental Statement (FES) related to the construction and operation of Watts Bar was issued in 1972
- ◆ NRC issued an FES in 1978, which supplemented the statements described in the 1972 FES related to the operation of Watts Bar

WATTS BAR ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

BACKGROUND (continued)

- ◆ 10 CFR 51.92(a) requires the NRC to supplement a final environmental statement if the proposed action (major federal action) has not been taken and:
 - 1) There are substantial changes in the proposed action that are relevant to environmental concerns; or
 - 2) There are significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed action or its impacts

- ◆ Under 10 CFR 51.92(b) the NRC may prepare a supplement when, in its opinion, preparation of a supplement will further the purposes of NEPA.

WATTS BAR ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

NRC REVIEW

- ◆ The NRC initiated a review of the Watts Bar environment to determine the necessity of a supplement.
- ◆ The NRC has dedicated a separate team for the Watts Bar environmental review
- ◆ The NRC's review is considering the following topics:
 - Environmental Impacts
 - Terrestrial environment
 - Aquatic environment
 - Water Use Impacts
 - Land Use Impacts
 - Radiological Impacts
 - Socioeconomic Impacts
- ◆ The review will incorporate the staff evaluation of Severe Accident Mitigation Design Alternatives (SAMDA)

WATTS BAR ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

NRC REVIEW (continued)

- ◆ The NRC requested additional information from TVA on the Watts Bar environment by letters dated March 9, and June 21, 1994
- ◆ The NRC conducted a July 27, 1994, site audit to discuss information collected by TVA relevant to the Watts Bar environment
- ◆ On May 18 and August 5, 1994 TVA provided information relevant to the staff's review
- ◆ The NRC just completed a September 12-13, 1994, site audit to collect additional information needed for the NRC's review.
- ◆ August 24, 1994 TVA provided the NRC with a draft Biological Assessment on the Endangered & Threaten Species found in the vicinity of Watts Bar.
- ◆ The NRC is currently evaluating this document and is consulting with the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service.

WATTS BAR ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

NRC Staff Approach

- ◆ The NRC staff intends to use the following approach:
 - 1) Prepare a supplement to the FES and circulate a draft for comment
 - 2) Include a discussion of SAMDAs in the FES supplement
 - 3) Enter formal consultation with the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service

- ◆ **The staff is consulting with the Commission with regard to this approach**

WATTS BAR ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETION

- ◆ The staff's approach includes issuing a draft supplement for comment by the end of the year (1994)
- ◆ The staff's proposed approach would include issuing the final supplement by March 1995

WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT

cc:

Mr. Craven Crowell, Chairman
Tennessee Valley Authority
ET 12A
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, TN 37902

Mr. W. H. Kennoy, Director
Tennessee Valley Authority
ET 12A
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, TN 37902

Mr. Johnny H. Hayes, Director
Tennessee Valley Authority
ET 12A
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, TN 37902

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

Dr. Mark O. Medford, Vice President
Engineering & Technical Services
Tennessee Valley Authority
3B Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

Mr. D. E. Nunn, Vice President
New Plant Completion
Tennessee Valley Authority
3B Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

Mr. J. A. Scalice, Site Vice President
Watts Bar Nuclear Plant
Tennessee Valley Authority
P.O. Box 2000
Spring City, TN 37381

General Counsel
Tennessee Valley Authority
ET 11H
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, TN 37902

Mr. Roger W. Huston, Manager
Nuclear Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
Tennessee Valley Authority
4G Blue Ridge
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

Mr. B. S. Schofield
Site Licensing Manager
Watts Bar Nuclear Plant
Tennessee Valley Authority
P.O. Box 2000
Spring City, TN 37381

TVA Representative
Tennessee Valley Authority
11921 Rockville Pike
Suite 402
Rockville, MD 20852

Regional Administrator
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region II
101 Marietta Street, NW., Suite 2900
Atlanta, GA 30323

Senior Resident Inspector
Watts Bar Nuclear Plant
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Route 2, Box 700
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
3rd Floor, L and C Annex
401 Church Street
Nashville, TN 37243-1532

Ms. Danielle Droitsch
Energy Project
The Foundation for
Global Sustainability
P.O. Box 1101
Knoxville, TN 37901

Mr. Bill Harris
Route 1, Box 26
Ten Mile, TN 37880