



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

October 14, 1994

Dr. Stephen A. Smith, D.V.M.  
The Foundation for Global Sustainability  
P.O. Box 1101  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37901

Dear Dr. Smith:

SUBJECT: NEED FOR A NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION (NRC) SCOPING MEETING FOR  
THE SUPPLEMENT TO THE WATTS BAR FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of NRC's plans with regard to a scoping meeting for the supplement to the Watts Bar Final Environmental Statement (FES).

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.92(c), a scoping process need not be used when preparing a supplement to a Final Environmental Statement. However, the question of the need for a scoping meeting arose during our discussion on whether to issue a supplement to the Watts Bar FES. The staff's sensitivity concerning the need for scoping was heightened as a result of your August 25, 1994, phone call to Mr. Scott Flanders and your comments during the September 13, 1994, public meeting.

Since the public meeting, the staff has considered the need for a scoping meeting with respect to our regulatory requirements, the benefits to be obtained from a public scoping meeting, the impact of a scoping meeting on staff resources, and the current scope of the supplement. The staff has determined the current scope for the supplement to the Watts Bar FES by reviewing the scope of the two previous Watts Bar environmental statements, several more recently completed environmental statements, as well as the scope of issues covered in draft NUREG-1437, Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal, which examines the possible environmental impacts from operation of light water reactors in the United States. Based on the factors stated above, and the comments received during the public meeting, the staff has concluded that a formal scoping process would not likely contribute substantially to the identification of new and significant environmental issues at Watts Bar. Therefore, the staff will not conduct a public scoping meeting.

Although, we have decided not to implement a formal scoping process, we have, nonetheless, conducted a public meeting on September 13, 1994, in the vicinity of the Watts Bar facility. At this meeting, the public was afforded an opportunity to express their views of the staff's approach or identify issues which the staff should address in its environmental review. In addition, the staff's decision not to pursue a scoping process is in no way intended to prevent members of the public from providing written comments and concerns

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to the NRC before the draft supplement is completed. In this regard, I encourage you to provide the NRC with any concerns you may have involving Watts Bar environmental issues, and to the extent possible, they will be addressed in the draft supplement. You may address your concerns to:

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Attn: Mr. Scott F. Newberry  
MS-0-11F23  
Washington, D.C. 20555

In addition, the NRC is planning to hold a public meeting in early January 1995, after the issuance of the draft supplement, in order to include the public in our review to the extent possible and practical. The proposed public meeting will provide an opportunity for the NRC to describe the environmental review documented in the draft supplement and allow the public to express their concerns about the draft supplement. Members of the public will also be able to raise new issues not discussed in the draft supplement.

As discussed at the public meeting, the staff will be publishing a draft supplement to the Watts Bar FES in December of this year. I would also encourage you to provide written comments on the draft supplement during the public comment period.

If you have any questions or comments on this letter, please call Scott Flanders at (301) 504-1172.

Sincerely,

Scott F. Newberry, Director  
License Renewal and Environmental Review  
Project Directorate  
Associate Directorate for Advanced Reactors  
and License Renewal  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos: 50-390  
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\*See previous concurrence

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