50-390

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

October 25, 1994

Mr. Boris McCubbin
1014 Freemason Street
Knoxville, Tennessee 37917

Dear Mr. McCubbin:

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

Thank you for your letter dated September 14, 1994, concerning a supplement to the Watts Bar Final Environmental Statement (FES). 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).

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 both new and significant environmental issues at Watts Bar. Therefore, the staff will not have a public scoping meeting.

However, the NRC does intend to include another meeting with the public in our review. Therefore, the staff is planning to hold a public meeting, sometime in early January 1995, after the issuance of the draft supplement. The proposed public meeting would provide an opportunity for the NRC to describe the environmental review contained in the draft supplement and allow the public to express their concerns about the draft supplement. Members of the public would also be able to raise new issues not discussed in the draft supplement.

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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 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-O-11F23
Washington, DC 20555

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,
Original signed by
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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