



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

September 11, 1986

Docket Nos.: 50-390/50-391

Tennessee Valley Authority  
ATTN: Mr. S. A. White  
Manager of Nuclear Power  
6N 38A Lookout Place  
1101 Market Street  
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

Dear Mr. White:

On September 8, 1986 your licensing staff contacted the NRC to cancel a meeting requested by the staff to discuss Watts Bar welding issues. This meeting was scheduled for September 10, 1986 in Bethesda and was to discuss your proposed response to our request for additional information of July 24, 1986. Planning for this meeting had been in progress by both of our staffs for weeks and a public meeting notice was issued on August 27, 1986. At the time of the cancellation NRC had brought out-of-town staff members and consultants to Bethesda for the meeting.

Earlier this year two other meetings to discuss welding issues were cancelled at the last minute by TVA. A meeting to discuss the Watts Bar weld reinspection program had been originally scheduled for February 19, 1986, was rescheduled to April 29, 1986 and was finally held on June 25, 1986. TVA also attempted to cancel at least two other meetings with the staff and it was only at the NRC's insistence that the meetings were held. One of these meetings involved Watts Bar design control issues and was held on July 17, 1986; the other involved Watts Bar cable pulling issues and was held July 17-18, 1986.

I am concerned by such last minute cancellations. The welding issues are significant and are of particular interest to the staff, to the public, and to the Congress. Extensive staff and consultant time and resources were expended to assure that NRC was prepared for a productive exchange with TVA.

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A PDR

Mr. S. A. White

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The staff is making every effort to be responsive to the TVA situation, to conduct timely reviews, and to provide prompt feedback to TVA, even to the extent that resources are being diverted from other agency tasks. I expect TVA to make a similar effort to assure efficient use of our time and resources if TVA is to continue to receive priority attention.

Please advise Mr. Bill Long when you will be ready to schedule another meeting regarding the Watts Bar welding issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. R. Denton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "H".

Harold R. Denton, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

Mr. S. A. White  
Tennessee Valley Authority

Watts Bar Nuclear Plant

cc:

Mr. L. Tomasic  
Westinghouse Electric Corporation  
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Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15230

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W. C. Drotleff  
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Tennessee Valley Authority  
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Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

Resident Inspector/Watts Bar NPS  
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J. A. McDonald  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
Watts Bar Nuclear Plant  
P.O. Box 800  
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*Docket*

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