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NOV 26 1991

Docket Nos. 50-390, 50-391
License Nos. CPPR-91, CPPR-92

Tennessee Valley Authority
ATTN: Mr. D. A. Nauman
Senior Vice President
Nuclear Power
6N 38A Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

Gentlemen:

SUBJECT: RESUMPTION OF CONSTRUCTION WORK AT WATTS BAR

This letter documents my telephone conversation with you on November 22, 1991, in which the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) concurred with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) assessment that Watts Bar Nuclear (WBN) plant was ready to resume construction activities on a slow-start conditional basis.

The TVA stopped work on construction of WBN on December 21, 1990. In a subsequent meeting, the results of which are stated in S. D. Ebnetter's letter of January 18, 1991, it was agreed that TVA would not resume work at WBN until adequate corrective actions had been taken and concurred in by the NRC.

The root causes of the problems at WBN have been identified and corrective actions have been developed. Self-assessments conducted by the TVA staff have verified adequacy of corrective actions and your conclusions were presented to the NRC in a meeting held on November 19, 1991. In that meeting, you reiterated the statement in your letter dated November 18, 1991 that TVA management has concluded WBN is ready to restart construction.

The NRC staff has been closely monitoring progress at WBN and has conducted several team inspections of corrective actions. The NRC staff has verified that adequate corrective actions have been developed and put in place and has concluded that construction could be resumed.

The NRC concurs in the resumption of construction activities conditioned by three major items which we have agreed upon. It is our understanding that the resumption will be on a slow start basis with a gradual, deliberate staffing-up of construction forces; TVA will inform the NRC resident inspection staff, before the fact, of those work packages selected for implementation; and the processes, procedures, organizations, and controls in place upon concurrence of work resumption, i.e., November 22, 1991, constitute the baseline for WBN work and there will be no unilateral changes to these. Changes that could significantly change the way work is done, alter the criteria for work, or reduce the effectiveness of work controls will be coordinated with the NRC prior to implementation.

MA
[Signature]

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Tennessee Valley Authority

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The effectiveness of the conditional concurrence of resumption of construction activities will be reviewed by the NRC in late January 1992.

Sincerely,

(Original signed by Stewart Ebnetter)

Stewart D. Ebnetter
Regional Administrator

cc: (See page 3)

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cc: M. Runyon, Chairman
Tennessee Valley Authority
ET 12A
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, TN 37902

J. B. Waters, Director
Tennessee Valley Authority
ET 12A
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, TN 37902

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

W. F. Willis
Senior Executive Officer
ET 12B
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, TN 37902

D. Nunn, Vice President
Nuclear Projects
Tennessee Valley Authority
3B Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

Dr. M. O. Medford
Vice President, Nuclear Assurance
Licensing and Fuels
Tennessee Valley Authority
3B Lookout Place
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

Honorable Robert Aikman
County Judge
Rhea County Courthouse
Dayton, TN 37321

Honorable Johnny Powell
County Judge
Meigs County Courthouse
Route 2
Decatur, TN 37322

State of Tennessee

G. L. Pannell
Site Licensing Manager
Watts Bar Nuclear Plant
Tennessee Valley Authority
P. O. Box 800
Spring City, TN 37381

E. G. Wallace, Manager
Nuclear Licensing and
Regulatory Affairs
Tennessee Valley Authority
5B Lookout Place
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

TVA Representative
Rockville Office
11921 Rockville Pike
Suite 402
Rockville, MD 20852

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

Michael H. Mobley, Director
Division of Radiological Health
T.E.R.R.A. Building, 6th Floor
150 9th Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37219-5404

John H. Garrity
Site Vice President
Watts Bar Nuclear Plant
Tennessee Valley Authority
P. O. Box 800
Spring City, TN 37381

Mr. H. H. Weber, Manager
Engineering and Modifications
Watts Bar Nuclear Plant
Tennessee Valley Authority
P. O. Box 800
Spring City, TN 37381

O. D. Kingsley, Jr.
President, Generating Group
Tennessee Valley Authority
3B Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

bcc: (See page 4)

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bcc: S. D. Ebnetter, RII
K. P. Barr, TVAP/RII
B. Bordenick, OGC
J. B. Brady, RII
M. S. Callahan, GPA/CA
R. D. Gibbs, RII
F. J. Hebdon, NRR
G. C. Lainas, NRR
H. H. Livermore, TVAP/RII
A. R. Long, TVAP/RII
P. S. Tam, NRR
NRR Document Control Desk

NRC Resident Inspector
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Route 2, Box 700
Spring City, TN 37381

~~TVAP/RII~~

~~KBarr:vyg
11/ /91~~

TVA/RII

** per previous concurrence*
BWilson
11/ /91

ORA/RII

JMilhoan
11/ /91

NOV 25 1991

bcc: S. D. Ebnetter, RII
K. P. Barr, TVAP/RII
B. Bordenick, OGC
J. B. Brady, RII
M. S. Callahan, GPA/CA
R. D. Gibbs, RII
F. J. Hebdon, NRR
G. C. Lainas, NRR
H. H. Livermore, TVAP/RII
A. R. Long, TVAP/RII
P. S. Tam, NRR
NRR Document Control Desk

NRC Resident Inspector
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Route 2, Box 700
Spring City, TN 37381

TVAP/RII

KBarr:vyg
11/ /91

TVA/RII

BW
BWilson
11/25/91

~~ORA/RII~~

~~JMilhoan
11/ /91~~

out of town