



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

May 23, 1990

Docket No. 50-390 and 50-391

MEMORANDUM FOR: Frederick J. Hebdon, Director  
TVA Project Directorate,  
Division of Reactor Projects I/II

FROM: Peter S. Tam, Senior Project Manager  
TVA Project Directorate,  
Division of Reactor Projects I/II

SUBJECT: INITIAL SITE VISIT TO WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT  
(TAC 40309, 40310, 72494 AND 72495)

On May 15, 1990, I visited the Watts Bar site for the first time as project manager designate. The main purpose of this visit was to meet with various TVA managers in preparation for a smooth transition. For this reason, there was no formal meeting agenda such that these managers did not have to be limited in what we discussed.

Mr. Ronald J. Stevens, WBN Licensing Manager arranged for me to meet individually with the following TVA managers: Mr. D. E. Douthit, WBN Program Manager, Mr. G. B. Brantley, Employee Concerns Manager, Mr. S. W. Crowe, QA Manager, Mr. W. S. Raughley, Nuclear Engineering Manager, Mr. C. L. Nolan, Nuclear Construction Manager, Mr. J. A. Scalice, WBN Plant Manager and Mr. E. Fuller, WBN Program Team Chairman. As results of these individual meetings, the following observations, comments and commitments were made:

(1) TVA managers unanimously expressed distress at the multiple points of NRC contacts they have to be responsive. I explained that a new organization will be responsible for all TVA plants. In addition, I discussed the current NRR policy ("Nuclear Reactor Regulation Management and Operations Policies"), which is explained and expanded in detail in the Project Manager's Handbook, Rev. 1 (NUREG-BR/0073), that the NRR Project Manager is TVA's single point of contact for all licensing matters. Therefore, as the Project Manager designate for Watts Bar, I committed to carry out this policy by taking steps to assure that all NRR technical branches communicate with TVA through me. If we encounter any problems in following this policy, I shall promptly escalate the problems to upper management for resolution.

(2) Concurrent with carrying out the above commitment, I requested TVA managers to institute a system such that all licensing issues dealing with NRC are controlled and tracked by their Licensing Manager. I stated that from the standpoint of management of licensing activities, a single point of contact at

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TVA would more easily provide a balanced view of all pending issues. I further stated that from my experience, a high-level utility manager contacting a high-level NRC official about a licensing issue normally results in the staff directing greatly increased efforts towards that issue, at the expense of timely completion of all other issues.

(3) I observed that a large number of TVA employees are on the NRC service list for licensing documents. Therefore, consistent with item (2) above, I requested the WBN Licensing Manager to propose how the service list can be trimmed. In this manner, a TVA employee will only receive a copy of licensing document controlled by the Senior VP or his designate, with instructions for actions.

(4) Consistent with item (1) above, I requested TVA to trim its service list effective June 3, 1990, such that the only NRR person on WBN's cc. list is the NRR Project Manager. All incoming submittals are controlled, docketed and distributed by the NRC Document Control Desk personnel. The NRR Project Manager sees to it that individuals that have a role in responding to the submittals receive copies of the submittals via the NRC internal document control procedure.

(5) I explained that effective June 3, the Special Projects group which has been exclusively handling all WBN issues will cease to exist, and in its place, the regular NRR and Region II organizations will take over all issues. NRR and Region II will each assume its normal role, responsibilities and authority, in accordance with current practice applicable to all other non-TVA nuclear plants. I committed to work closely with the resident inspectors and the Region II Section Chief in charge of WBN, in accordance with guidance in the Project Manager's Handbook, Rev. 1.

(6) Several TVA managers expressed worry as to whether NRR would support TVA's proposed fuel load date of September 1991. I indicated that this worry is not justified since NRR has in place a policy that all NTOL matters be handled in a manner consistent with a realistic fuel load date (see "Nuclear Reactor Regulation Management and Operations Policies"). TVA can greatly facilitate NRC's licensing schedule by providing a realistic schedule leading to fuel load, and promptly notifying NRC of all schedular changes. I committed to provide a licensing schedule as soon as I have a firm understanding of all WBN issues.

(7) I requested that the Licensing Manager and I make it a practice to converse several times a week on the phone, and hold meetings with NRR personnel whenever the need is deemed to exist. Concurrently, I requested that other TVA personnel not to contact NRC on licensing matters without going thru the Licensing Manager. This measure is to ensure that all verbal agreements can be appropriately followed up and tracked, but in no way is it an attempt to stifle any TVA employees from contacting NRC to voice

concerns.

(8) The schedule of Technical Specifications (TS) review was discussed. The schedule, with its built-in flexibility, has been verbally agreed to by the NRR Technical Specifications Branch. My subsequent conversation with R. Giardina, the TS lead reviewer, confirmed that such a verbal commitment exists.



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*Original signed by*

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