

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
REGARDING A TEMPORARY EXEMPTION FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR 70.51(d)
TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY
WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2
DOCKET NOS. 50-390 AND 50-391

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of a temporary exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 70.51(d) to the Tennessee Valley Authority (the licensee) for Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2. The units are located at the licensee's plant site in Rhea County, Tennessee.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action: By application dated July 10, 1989, the licensee requested a temporary exemption to 10 CFR 70.51(d). The temporary exemption will maintain the requirement for an annual inventory of fuel stored at the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, but will allow the inventory for 1989 to be conducted at an interval of more than 12 months but not more than 15 months from the date of the inventory for 1988. The requirements of 10 CFR 50.71(d) specify that the annual inventories must be conducted at an interval of not more than 12 months.

The Need for the Proposed Action: The licensee is requesting a temporary exemption for 1989 from the annual physical inventory requirement in 10 CFR 70.51(d).

Pursuant to 10 CFR 70.51(d), the licensee conducted a physical inventory of the Watts Bar fuel by piece count and serial number verification in August 1988. The next scheduled inventory was to be conducted by August 9, 1989. In order to perform the inventory, removal of the spent fuel pit covers and the new fuel vault covers is required. However, the Auxiliary Building crane which is required to remove those covers was and is currently out of service. The spent fuel pool covers weigh approximately 5000 pounds each and the new fuel vault covers weigh approximately 6000 pounds each. This crane was not returned to service in time to conduct the physical inventory before the required date.

Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action: The proposed action is an administrative action only and will have no environmental impact.

Alternative Use of Resources: This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in connection with the "Final Environmental Statement Related to the Operation of the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2."

Agencies and Persons Consulted: The licensee initiated this temporary exemption action. The NRC staff is reviewing their request. No other agencies or persons were consulted.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed temporary exemption.

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not adversely affect the public health and safety nor common defense and security.

For further details with respect to this action, see the licensee's application dated July 10, 1989 which is available in the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555 and at the

Chattanooga-Hamilton County Bicentennial Library, 1001 Broad Street,
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 23rd day of August 1989.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Suzanne Black

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