

Tennessee Valley Authority, Post Office Box 2000, Spring City, Tennessee 37381-2000

Richard T. Purcell
Site Vice President, Watts Bar Nuclear Plant

OCT 13 1999

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Gentlemen:

In the Matter of)
Tennessee Valley Authority) Docket No. 50-391

WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT (WBN) UNIT 2 - REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF
CONSTRUCTION PERMIT CPPR-92

By letter dated December 14, 1993, NRC extended the expiration date for Construction Permit CPPR-92 (WBN Unit 2) to December 31, 1999. This letter respectfully requests that the NRC further extend the construction permit to December 31, 2010.

In TVA's November 10, 1993 request to extend the expiration dates of the WBN Unit 1 and Unit 2 construction permits, TVA stated that active work directed toward the completion of WBN Unit 2 would not be started until WBN Unit 1 had entered operation successfully. As NRC is aware, WBN Unit 1 successfully entered commercial operation in May 1996 and is currently in the third cycle. Notwithstanding its extended period of construction, WBN Unit 1 has operated in an exemplary manner since the commencement of full power generation. The unit's operational record provides ample evidence of its sound construction and validates the strict construction verification standards and practices instituted to ensure its operational readiness. The experiences and lessons

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learned from WBN Unit 1 construction will certainly be put to beneficial use in any future construction associated with WBN Unit 2.

At this time, WBN Unit 2 is being maintained in a construction layup status. TVA plans to maintain the unit in this status pending the determination of new generation (supply-side) options to meet future electric power demands. TVA's integrated resource plan - Energy Vision 2020 - identified the need for a flexible range of options and alternatives required to meet, among other things, the Tennessee Valley region's new base-load power supply needs through the year 2020. Recent record breaking energy demand in the Tennessee Valley reinforced TVA's obligation to provide ample safe, economic, reliable, and environmentally responsible sources of electric power. Fulfilling this responsibility in light of the many uncertainties associated with the future electric utility industry makes it imperative that TVA maintain a robust and flexible range of generating options. The extension of WBN Unit 2's construction permit will help TVA maintain a full scope of competitive energy production choices.

From the foregoing, TVA submits that pursuant to the requirements of 10 CFR § 50.55(b), good cause exists for extension of the WBN Unit 2 Construction Permit CPPR-92 and that the extension is for a reasonable period of time.

If you should have any questions concerning this matter, please telephone me at (423) 365-8767.

Sincerely,



R. T. Purcell

cc: See page 3

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 13th day of October 1999

E. Jeanne Long
Notary Public

My Commission expires June 27, 2001

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cc: NRC Resident Inspector
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