

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY
WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2
DOCKET NOS. 50-390 AND 50-391
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING
OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an extension to the latest construction completion date specified in Construction Permit Nos. CPPR-91 and CPPR-92 issued to Tennessee Valley Authority (Applicant) for the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2. The facility is located at the applicant's site on the west branch of the Tennessee River approximately 50 miles northeast of Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of Proposed Action: The proposed action would extend the latest construction completion date of Construction Permit No. CPPR-91 to March 1987 and the latest construction completion date of Construction Permit No. CPPR-92 to September 1987. The proposed action is in response to the applicant's request dated November 19, 1984, as modified by letters dated September 3, 1985, and January 31, 1986.

The Need for the Proposed Action: The proposed action is needed because the construction of the facility is not yet fully completed. The applicant states that, although Unit 1 is essentially complete, major efforts to resolve staff concerns regarding environmental qualification of electrical equipment and welding to resolve TVA employee concerns are currently underway. These efforts

are being conducted by TVA to respond to concerns raised by the staff during its operating license review and by TVA employees during an interview program conducted by the applicant's contractor, Quality Technology Corporation (QTC).

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action: The environmental impacts associated with construction of the facility have been previously discussed and evaluated in TVA's Final Environmental Statement (FES) issued on November 9, 1972 for the construction permit stage which covered construction of both units.

Since the proposed action involves extending the construction permit, radiological impacts are not affected by this action. There are no radiological impacts associated with this action. The impacts that are involved are all non-radiological and are associated with continued construction.

Since the construction of Unit 1 is essentially 100% complete and Unit 2 is approximately 85% complete, most of the construction impacts discussed in the FES have already occurred.

The reinspection and rework that may be required will not have any significant environmental impact. This activity will all take place within the facility and will not result in impacts to previously undisturbed areas.

There are no new significant impacts associated with this extension. However, impacts previously assessed (community and traffic impacts) will continue in order to complete plant construction and rework.

Based on the foregoing, the NRC staff concludes that the proposed extension of the construction permit would have no significant environmental impact. Since this action would only extend the period of construction as described in the FES, it does not involve any different impacts or a significant change to those impacts described and analyzed in the original environmental impact statement.

Alternatives Considered: A possible alternative to the proposed action would be to deny the request. Under this alternative, the applicants would not be able to complete construction of the facility. This would result in denial of the benefit of power production. This option would not eliminate the environmental impacts of construction already incurred.

If construction were halted and not completed, site redress activities would restore some small areas to their natural state. This would be a slight environmental benefit, but much outweighed by the economic losses from denial of use of a facility that is nearly completed. Therefore, this alternative is rejected.

Alternative Use of Resources: This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in the FES for Watts Bar.

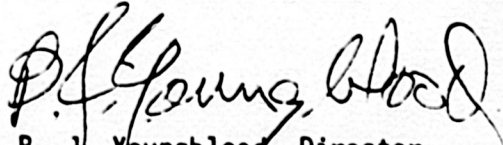
Agencies and Persons Contacted: The NRC staff reviewed the applicant's request and applicable documents referenced therein that support this extension. The NRC did not consult other agencies or persons.

Finding of No Significant Impact: The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for this action. Based upon the environmental assessment, we conclude that this action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For details with respect to this action, see the request for extension dated November 19, 1984, as modified by letters dated September 3, 1985 and January 31, 1986, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., and at the local public document room, Chattanooga-Hamilton County Bicentennial Library, 1001 Broad Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 8th day of April 1986.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



B. J. Youngblood, Director
PWR Project Directorate #4
Division of PWR Licensing-A, NRR

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