



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

April 9, 2009

The Honorable Phil Bredesen
Governor of Tennessee
Nashville, TN 37243-0001

Dear Governor Bredesen:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am informing you that the NRC has received an updated application for a facility operating license (OL) from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). This proposed license would authorize TVA to possess, use, and operate a light water nuclear reactor at Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 2 located in Rhea County, Tennessee. TVA has also submitted its final supplemental environmental impact statement for the completion and operation of Unit 2.

TVA received construction permits for two reactors at the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant site in 1973. Construction continued on both units until 1985, when TVA suspended construction to address certain deficiencies at its Watts Bar and other TVA facilities. TVA completed construction on Unit 1, and, in 1996, received its full-power operation license. On August 3, 2007, TVA informed the NRC that TVA intended to reactivate and complete construction activities at Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 2. On March 4, 2009, TVA updated its original OL application. The NRC will notice in the *Federal Register* receipt of TVA's updated application to provide public notice and an opportunity for hearing.

Our regulatory review of TVA's OL application is in progress. The NRC web page at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/plant-specific-items/watts-bar/key-correspondence.html> provides information regarding our regulatory activities associated with this effort.

As always, safety is our main focus. The NRC will issue an OL only after it has found that the final design and construction provide reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation of the facility in accordance with the requirements of the license and NRC regulations.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need additional information regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Leeds", is positioned above the typed name of the signatory.

Eric J. Leeds, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: Listserv

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Eric J. Leeds, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: Listserv

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