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

October 4, 2010

Mr. R. M. Krich
Vice President, Nuclear Licensing
Tennessee Valley Authority
3R Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

SUBJECT: WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 1 – SCHEDULE REGARDING THE LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST FOR TOTAL FLOODING AUTOMATIC CARBON DIOXIDE FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM INSTALLED IN THE AUXILIARY INSTRUMENT ROOM (TAC NO. ME2532)

Dear Mr. Krich:

By letter dated October 30, 2009 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML093080377), Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) requested a license amendment concerning a change to the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 1 fire protection program requirements. Specifically, this involves changing the design basis of the total flooding automatic carbon dioxide (CO_2) fire suppression system in the Auxiliary Instrument Room from a 50-percent CO_2 concentration to a 45-percent concentration, retaining the currently required 15-minute hold time to suppression a fire.

TVA requested the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory commission (NRC) to complete its review by October 30, 2010. The NRC performance goals for licensing actions is to complete 95-percent in less than 1 year and 100-percent in less than 2 years. It is very unlikely that NRC will complete its review by October 30, 2010.

If you have any questions regarding this issue, please feel free to contact me at (301) 415-3100.

Sincerely,

John G. Lamb, Senior Project Manager
Watts Bar Special Projects Branch
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No.: 50-390

cc: Distribution via Listserv

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