



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

July 20, 2011

Mr. Ashok S. Bhatnagar
Senior Vice President
Nuclear Generation Development
and Construction
Tennessee Valley Authority
6A Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

**SUBJECT: WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 2 – SCHEDULE OF LICENSING
ACTIVITIES (TAC NO. ME0853)**

Dear Mr. Bhatnagar:

In a letter dated April 13, 2011, we provided you with the status of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's review of your operating license application for Watts Bar Nuclear Plant (WBN), Unit 2. We identified certain areas of the review where the staff's review schedule would challenge your planned project milestone for fuel-load readiness by April 2012. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of changes to our current schedule for the major areas remaining for licensing review.

Regarding completion of the review of the supplemental environmental impact statement prepared by Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), the staff is working to complete its assessment of TVA's severe accident mitigation design alternatives and certain aspects of the dose consequences assessment related to the proposed operation of WBN Unit 2. We have recently received the remaining additional information to complete our review and prepare the NRC's supplement to the final environmental statement (SFES). On this basis, we estimate that the draft SFES will be published about the end of August 2011 for public comment. Depending on the comments received, the final document will be completed in February 2012.

To complete our safety evaluation report activities relating to TVA's fire protection report, we have assigned significant resources and taken other actions, including holding periodic public meetings, to facilitate the staff's needs for additional information. The staff has recently received TVA's documentation on operator manual actions (OMAs) and associated safe shutdown evaluations. Assuming your submittal of an updated (as-designed) fire protection report by August 1, 2011, the staff expects to complete its review of the OMAs, your responses to prior staff requests for additional information, and the fire protection report by March 2012.


A. Bhatnagar

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Based on the above, we expect to complete our safety and environmental reviews by the second quarter of 2012. The completion of these areas will allow a presentation to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards and Atomic safety Licensing Board later in 2012.

If you should have any questions, please contact me at 301-415-1457.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. D. Milano", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Patrick D. Milano, Senior Project Manager
Watts Bar Special Projects Branch
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-391

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A. Bhatnagar

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/RA/

Patrick D. Milano, Senior Project Manager
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Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
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