



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

February 9, 2022

LICENSEE: Tennessee Valley Authority

FACILITY: Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 2

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF JANUARY 19, 2022, MEETING WITH TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY REGARDING A PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST FOR INCREASED TRITIUM PRODUCTION AT WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 (EPID L-2022-LRM-0000)

On January 19, 2022, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff conducted a virtual observation (i.e., public) meeting with representatives of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). The purpose of the meeting was for TVA to present its proposed schedule for development of a license amendment request (LAR) that would seek to increase the number of tritium producing burnable absorber rods (TPBARs) at Watts Bar Nuclear Plant (Watts Bar), Units 1 and 2.

The meeting notice and agenda, dated January 4, 2022, are available at Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML22006A248. TVA's presentation slides for the meeting are available at ADAMS Accession No. ML22013A643. A list of participants who wanted to be part of the record is enclosed.

TVA stated that at the request of the Department of Energy (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) it is developing an LAR to increase the licensed limit of TPBARs from the current number of 1,792 to 2,496 for each unit at Watts Bar.

TVA plans to submit the LAR to the NRC around February 24, 2023, and will request approval by August 27, 2024, which is based on past precedent 18-month reviews for Watts Bar LARs that requested approval for insertion of TPBARs. The schedule also takes into account the planned refueling outages for each unit when the additional TPBARs would be inserted into the reactors, i.e., fall 2024 for Unit 1 and spring 2025 for Unit 2. However, TVA asked the NRC to consider if the NRC could review and approve the LAR within 12 months based on the limited scope of the LAR and efficiencies the NRC has gained from the review of the previous Watts Bar TPBAR LARs.

TVA plans to possibly request two more meetings in the May/June 2022 and mid-January 2023 timeframes to discuss the proposed LAR in more detail.

During the public comment period, several members of the public provided comments. Generally, the comments were in opposition to allowing the production of tritium in the reactors at Watts Bar, Units 1 and 2. Also, a few members of the public requested that the NRC publish any environmental review documents for public comment and noted that an environmental review is required by the National Environmental Policy Act. Additionally, they requested that any hearings be publicly noticed and held locally in the vicinity of the Savannah River site. The public also questioned the roles and responsibilities of DOE and NRC as they pertain to the

inspection of the TPBARs from the fuel manufacturer and effluent releases that are mingled from the various facilities at the Savannah River site. Additionally, the public questioned if site security at Watts Bar will be increased due to the planned increase in tritium production. Mr. Tom Clements from Savannah River Site Watch stated that he recently published a report titled, "Crossing the Line," that may be accessed at <https://srswatch.org>. In addition, the NRC received three public meeting feedback responses. Of note, one responder suggested that more meetings on the subject be held and that public stakeholder involvement be expanded. The responder also noted its objection to civil defense material being created in commercial nuclear power reactors.

While the NRC does not regulate radiological environmental monitoring and effluent monitoring at the Savannah River Site, it does regulate this monitoring at commercial nuclear power plant sites. The Environmental Protection Agency establishes the environmental radiation protection standards for nuclear power operations including ground water protection standards. The latest Watts Bar Annual Radioactive Effluent Release Report, dated April 28, 2021, is available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML21118B038. TVA's latest Annual Radiological Environmental Operating Report, dated May 11, 2021, is available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML21131A039. These and prior years' reports for all operating nuclear power plants are available via the NRC's public Web site at <https://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/ops-experience/tritium/plant-info.html>. General information regarding radiation monitoring at nuclear power plants is available at <https://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/radiation/protects-you/radiation-monitoring.html>. The NRC periodically conducts inspections of nuclear power plants' environmental monitoring programs to verify that licensees are in compliance with NRC regulations.

Requests to receive documents that the NRC issues for a nuclear power plant can be made at the following web site address:

<https://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/listserver/plants-by-region.html>

No regulatory decisions were made at this meeting.

Please direct any inquiries to me at 301-415-1627 or by e-mail to [Kimberly.Green@nrc.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Green@nrc.gov).

*/RA/*

Kimberly J. Green, Senior Project Manager  
Plant Licensing Branch II-2  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-390 and 50-391

Enclosure:  
List of Participants

cc: Listserv

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

JANUARY 19, 2022, PUBLIC MEETING WITH TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

REGARDING WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST

FOR INCREASED TRITIUM PRODUCTION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Kim Green	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)
Dave Gasperson	NRC
Dave Wrona	NRC
Angie Buford	NRC
Steve Bloom	NRC
Lance Rakovan	NRC
Bob Lukes	NRC
Scott Krepel	NRC
Kevin Hsueh	NRC
Steve Jones	NRC
Phyllis Clark	NRC
Ed Miller	NRC
Nan Chien	NRC
John Tsao	NRC
Matt Yoder	NRC
Mathew Panicker	NRC
Beth Alferink	NRC
Rich Clement	NRC
Emma Haywood	NRC
On Yee	NRC
Kayleh Hartage	NRC
Carolyn Fairbanks	NRC
Russ Wells	Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)
Charlie Davis	TVA
Mark Burzynski	TVA
Korrie Yetzer	TVA
Kevin Dutton	TVA
Carla Borelli	TVA
David Brown	TVA
Daniel Fox	TVA
Jeff McGuire	TVA
Lukus Barnes	TVA
Robert Montgomery	Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
Kyle Wilhelm	U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration (DOE NNSA)

Enclosure

Nanette Founds

DOE NNSA

Toni Ostrander

Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation. Division  
of Radiological Health

Ralph Hutchison

Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance

Ms. Gifford

League of Women Voters

Priscilla Preston

Savannah River Sierra Club

Jan Boudart

Nuclear Energy Information Service

Tom Clements

Savannah River Site Watch

Pamela Greenlaw

Midlands Group Sierra Club

Joanne Sweeney

Terry Lodge

Michele Levy

Kathy Helms

Cody Dishner

Dave Flessner

Joni Arends

Kalene Walker

Lou Martinez

Per Peterson

Don Safer

Michael Keegan

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**ADAMS Accession No.: ML22025A311**

OFFICE	DORL/LPL2-2/PM	DORL/LPL2-2/LA*	DORL/LPL2-2/BC*	DORL/LPL2-2/PM
NAME	KGreen	RButler	DWrona	KGreen
DATE	1/24/2022	1/27/2022	2/9/2022	2/9/2022

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