



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

September 28, 2023

LICENSEE: Tennessee Valley Authority

FACILITY: Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2023, PARTIALLY CLOSED MEETING WITH TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY TO DISCUSS PROPOSED LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST (EPID L-2023-LRM-0061)

On September 12, 2023, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff held a partially closed meeting with representatives of Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA, the licensee) to discuss a potential license amendment request (LAR) to modify the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant (Watts Bar), Units 1 and 2 technical specifications (TS). The meeting notice and agenda for this meeting, dated August 8, 2023, are available in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) at Accession No. ML23243A831. The meeting slides are available at ADAMS Accession No. ML23251A125. A list of attendees is enclosed.

TVA stated its intent to submit a license amendment request to revise Watts Bar, Units 1 and 2 TS Surveillance Requirement (SR) 3.9.5.1, "Residual Heat Removal (RHR) and Coolant Circulation - High Water Level," to revise the current flow rate of 2,500 gallons per minute (gpm) to 2,000 gpm. TVA noted that the proposed change is consistent with similar RHR flow requirements in Watts Bar, Units 1 and 2, SR 3.9.6.1, "Residual Heat Removal (RHR) and Coolant Circulation - Low Water Level," and Sequoyah Nuclear Plant SRs 3.9.5.1 and 3.9.6.1.

TVA described the purpose of the RHR system in Mode 6 which is to remove decay heat and sensible heat from the reactor coolant system, to provide mixing of borated coolant, and to prevent boron stratification. Portions of the RHR system also serve as parts of the emergency core cooling system during the injection and recirculation phases of a loss of coolant accident. The RHR system is also used to transfer refueling water between the refueling cavity and the refueling water storage tank at the beginning and end of the refueling operations. TVA explained that the proposed change would allow operation of the RHR system at reduced flow during refueling operations with high water level conditions. The NRC staff questioned why there's a difference between TS SR 3.9.5.1 (flow rate of  $\geq 2,500$  gpm) and TS SR 3.9.6.1 (flow rate  $\geq 2,000$  gpm). TVA reasoned that it is likely due to Standard Technical Specifications, which the Watts Bar TSs are not modeled after. The NRC staff asked if the basis for the flow rate for a refueling water level  $< 23$  feet bounds the flow rate for a refueling water level  $> 23$  feet. TVA replied that it could not readily say if one bounds the other because the limiting condition for operation for TS 3.9.5 is different than the limiting condition for operation TS 3.9.6.

Westinghouse Electric Company LLC (Westinghouse) has prepared a technical evaluation, LTR-SEE-23-4-P, Revision 1, "Technical Evaluation in Support of Watts Bar Units 1 & 2 Residual Heat Removal System (RHRS) Flow Rate Reduction During Mode 6 Operation at Refueling Water Level  $\geq 23$  Feet," to support the proposed change. The details of the evaluation were the subject of the closed portion of the meeting.

TVA plans to submit the LAR by September 30, 2023, and will request approval within 1 year from the date of the submittal.

No regulatory decisions were made at this meeting.

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

*/RA/*

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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 Attendees

cc: Listserv

LIST OF ATTENDEES

SEPTEMBER 12, 2023, PUBLIC PORTION OF PARTIALLY CLOSED MEETING

WITH TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

REGARDING PROPOSED LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Kim Green	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)
Tony Sierra	NRC
Tom Scarbrough	NRC
Andrea Russell	NRC
Clint Ashley	NRC
Jo Ambrosini	NRC
Russ Wells	Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)
Dustin Martin	TVA
Sara Nolan	TVA
Chris Kerlin	TVA
Jim Smith	Westinghouse Electric Company, LLC (Westinghouse)
Gary Whiteman	Westinghouse
Shaun Smith	Westinghouse

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2023, PARTIALLY CLOSED MEETING WITH  
TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY TO DISCUSS PROPOSED LICENSE  
AMENDMENT REQUEST (EPID L-2023-LRM-0061)  
DATED SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

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ML23265A171 Package

ML23243A831 Notice

ML23265A151 Summary

ML23251A125 Slides

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NAME	KGreen	RButler	DWrona	KGreen
DATE	9/21/2023	9/25/2023	9/28/2023	9/28/2023

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