



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

June 26, 2025

LICENSEE: Tennessee Valley Authority

FACILITY: Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 2

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF JUNE 5, 2025, PUBLIC TELECONFERENCE WITH
TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY TO DISCUSS A PROPOSED
EMERGENCY LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST AND EXEMPTION
RELATED TO TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION 3.3.1 FOR WATTS BAR
NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 2 (EPID L-2025-LRM-0074)

On June 5, 2025, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff held a public meeting via teleconference with representatives of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to discuss a proposed emergency license amendment request (LAR) and exemption for Watts Bar Nuclear Plant (Watts Bar), Unit 2. The meeting notice and agenda for this meeting, dated June 5, 2025, are available at Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML25156A047. A list of the meeting attendees is enclosed.

TVA requested the meeting to discuss its planned submittal of an emergency LAR for Watts Bar, Unit 2, that would revise Technical Specification (TS) 3.3.1, "Reactor Trip System (RTS) Instrumentation," and an exemption request.

TVA stated that it had to declare one of the three pressurizer high water level transmitters inoperable and place the affected channel in the trip condition. This means that if one more level transmitter were to automatically trip, it would cause the Watts Bar Unit 2 reactor to automatically trip and shut down. This places the unit in a single point vulnerability. At the time, two other TVA reactor units were shut down. To avoid the possibility of a third unit shutting down during higher temperature weather, TVA stated that it plans to request the one-time LAR to allow the inoperable channel to be placed in bypass, thereby essentially changing the logic to cause a reactor trip from two-out-of-three to two-out-of-two. The proposed TS change would add a one-time note to the Required Action for Condition X that would allow the inoperable channel to be bypassed until it can be restored to operable status, and would include a reference to the LAR that would identify compensatory measures that shall be in place for the duration of the note, which would expire when the transmitter is returned to operable status or July 1, 2025, whichever is earliest.

Because the circumstances for the LAR do not meet the criteria for emergency circumstances in paragraph 50.91(a)(5) of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, TVA stated that it would also submit an exemption request to allow the LAR to be considered under emergency circumstances. TVA briefly described what it plans to include in the exemption request, including the special circumstance that it believes is applicable to the request.

TVA detailed the logic for the reactor protection system and the level transmitters in question. TVA also described the risk assessment it performed to determine the change in risk due to the

unavailability of the level transmitter. TVA stated that the specific level transmitters are not modeled in the probabilistic risk assessment (PRA), so it used a surrogate event to estimate the risk and stated that the risk values were less than 1×10^{-11} , which is considered to be very small by the NRC's regulatory guidance. The NRC staff questioned whether TVA considered a common cause failure. TVA confirmed that it had performed a sensitivity study, and the risk numbers were about a decade (factor of 10) higher.

The NRC staff asked clarifying questions regarding the action TVA would take if the July 1st deadline arrived and it was not able to return the transmitter to operable status and if a second channel was determined to be inoperable.

Because TVA plans to request approval of the emergency LAR by June 8, 2025, the NRC staff suggested the following items be included in the LAR to assist in an expedient review:

- a description of the surrogate that was used in the PRA
- a description of sensitivity study that was performed for the common cause failure consideration
- a brief discussion of the Maintenance Rule A.4 program (for monitoring risk)
- reference to the accident analyses in the updated final safety analysis report where credit for the pressurizer high water level function is mentioned
- a description of the power supplies for the level transmitters

TVA stated that it plans to submit the emergency LAR and exemption request by 10:00 p.m. on June 5, 2025.

No regulatory decisions were made at this meeting.

No comments or public meeting feedback forms were received.

Please direct any inquiries to me at 301-415-1627 or Kimberly.Green@nrc.gov.

/RA/

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

Docket No. 50-391

Enclosure:
List of Attendees

cc: Listserv

LIST OF ATTENDEES

JUNE 5, 2025, TELECONFERENCE WITH TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

PROPOSED EMERGENCY LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST AND EXEMPTION

REGARDING TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION 3.3.1

WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 2

Name	Organization
Kim Green	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)
Bob Pascarelli	NRC
Norbert Carte	NRC
Rob Elliott	NRC
Robert Wehrmann	NRC
Todd Hilsmeier	NRC
Ching Ng	NRC
Shivani Mehta	NRC
Tarico Sweat	NRC
Jobin Daniel	NRC
Ryan Taylor	NRC
Evan Robinson	NRC
Russ Wells	Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)
Amber Aboulfaida	TVA
Gerry Kindred	TVA
Beau Eckermann	TVA
Kim Hulvey	TVA
Mark Nicholson	TVA
Jonathan Gore	TVA
Bill Victor	TVA
Jesse Baron	TVA
Matt Harding	TVA
Jarrett Lavasseur	TVA
Keith Skubisz	TVA
David Lively	TVA
Shawna Hughes	TVA
Ben Reece	TVA
Jeremy Thompson	TVA
Dan Kearnan	TVA

Enclosure

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NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 2 (EPID L-2025-LRM-0074) DATED JUNE 26, 2025

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ADAMS Accession Nos.:

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ML25156A047 (Meeting Notice)

ML25176A107 (Meeting Summary)

NRC-001

OFFICE	NRR/DORL/LPL2-2/PM	NRR/DORL/LPL2-2/LA	NRR/DORL/LPL2-2/BC	NRR/DORL/LPL2-2/PM
NAME	KGreen	ABaxter	DWrona	KGreen
DATE	06/24/2025	06/26/2025	06/26/2025	06/26/2025

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