

**A Cautionary Tale on
Watts Bar 2
Licensing**

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OCTOBER 30, 2014**

Tennessee Environmental Council

- **Our mission is “educating and advocating for the conservation and improvement of Tennessee’s environment, communities, and public health.”**
- **Website: www.tectn.org**



What does “new” mean?

Watts Bar 2 is not the first new reactor of the 21st century; it is the last old reactor of the 20th century

- Old design & structural components**
- Old Part 50 licensing process**

Ice Condenser Blues

- **Containment weakness concerns**
- **Ongoing maintenance problems**



TVA's Ongoing Nuclear Woes

- **Complete shutdown of all TVA construction & operations in 1985**
- **Delayed operating completed Watts Bar 1 until 1996**
- **Creates uncertainty & risk**
- **Long history of whistleblower concerns and safety culture problems**

High Costs for Fukushima & Chernobyl

Staggering societal impacts



Fukushima Lessons Learned?
NRC Commissioned Nat'l Academy of Sciences study: *“Emphasizes the need for strengthening capabilities for identifying, evaluating and managing risks from beyond design basis events and better estimating the broad range of offsite health, environmental, economic, and social consequences.”*

Lessons of Fukushima Ignored

- **Have not been applied in the old NRC licensing process for Watts Bar 2**
- **FEIS, Section 6.2.4: concludes that the environmental consequences of severe accidents are SMALL**
- **REALLY???**

Lessons of Fukushima Ignored

- **Using outdated, inadequate seismic data to model dam safety in the highly engineered Tennessee River system at scores of dams**
- **If Fukushima Lessons Learned were taken seriously, using updated seismic data would be required ... even if it meant delays to the licensing of Watts Bar 2**

A Legacy of Nuclear Waste

- **New NRC waste storage plan could leave the long-lived, highly radioactive used fuel rods on site for hundreds of years**
- **Never contemplated in the original construction license**
- **High burn up fuel causes problems**



Insufficient Funds & Protections

- **TVA's reactor decommissioning fund is grossly underfunded**
- **Tennessee Valley residents should have adequate insurance coverage from the risks posed by Watts Bar**
 - **The Price Anderson Act provides insufficient coverage**

TVA Should Lead the Country

**Rapid advancement of
renewables, efficiency
& conservation**



Recommendations

- **Require use of updated seismic standards before issuing Watts Bar 2 operating license**
- **Study effects of cumulative impacts on Tennessee River**
- **Require TVA meet funding needs for inevitable decommissioning**

Recommendations

- **Protect the public from the legacies of nuclear power – decommissioning, radioactive waste, polluting uranium fuel chain**
- **Make Radiation Visible Campaign:**
www.makeradiationvisible.org/

Recommendations

Learn from Mistakes – licensing should NOT extend for 40+ years – cancel TVA's Bellefonte licensing



THANK YOU

