

January 30, 2002

Mr. David Lochbaum
Nuclear Safety Engineer
Union of Concerned Scientists
Suite 600
1707 H Street, NW.
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Lochbaum:

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) published *Federal Register* Notices of Consideration of Issuance of Amendments to Facility Operating Licenses, Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determinations, and Opportunity for Hearings for Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA's) Watts Bar and Sequoyah requests on December 17, 2001. Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Section 50.91, allows 30 days for public comment on the staff's proposed no significant hazards consideration determinations. This period expired January 16, 2002.

On January 15, 2002, you sent us a letter requesting a 60-day extension of the public comment period indicating that docketed records for Watts Bar were not available to the public. In a telephone call with a member of the NRC's Office of the Secretary, you said that you also meant your letter to be a request to extend the time to file a hearing request. Our letter of January 17, 2002, from the Secretary of the Commission, denied that request. However, the Secretary's letter said that the NRC staff would consider your request to extend the 30-day public comment period.

We reviewed your request to extend the 30-day public comment period and determined that the Watts Bar information has been, and continues to be, available to the public. Accordingly, the staff does not intend to extend the comment period for this notice. However, since we did receive your letter within the 30-day public comment period, NRC staff will address additional relevant technical comments from you in its safety evaluation as long as we receive your comments while we are reviewing other comments. Thank you for your continued interest in our license amendment process.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John A. Zwolinski, Director
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-390

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