



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

August 7, 2012

Mr. Joseph W. Shea  
Vice President, Nuclear Licensing  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
6A Lookout Place  
1101 Market Street  
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

SUBJECT: WATTS BAR NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 1 – ACCEPTANCE OF REQUESTED  
LICENSING ACTION REGARDING APPLICATION TO ALLOW SELECTIVE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF ALTERNATE SOURCE TERM TO ANALYZE THE  
DOSE CONSEQUENCES ASSOCIATED WITH FUEL-HANDLING ACCIDENTS  
(TAC NO. ME8877)

Dear Mr. Shea:

By letter dated June 13, 2012, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) submitted a license amendment request for Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 1. The proposed amendment request would allow selective implementation of alternate source term to analyze the dose consequences associated with fuel-handling accidents. An acceptance review was performed by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to determine if there was sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to complete its detailed review. By letter dated July 27, 2012, the NRC informed TVA that additional information was necessary to enable the NRC staff to make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed amendment request in terms of regulatory requirements and the protection of the public health and safety of the environment. By letter dated August 2, 2012, TVA supplemented the June 13, 2012, application with the additional information requested by the NRC. The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the NRC staff's acceptance review of this amendment request.

Consistent with Section 50.90 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), an amendment to the license (including the technical specifications) must fully describe the changes requested and following, as far as applicable, the form prescribed for original applications. Section 50.34 of 10 CFR addresses the content of technical information required. This section stipulates that the submittal address the design and operating characteristics, unusual or novel design features, and principal safety considerations.

The NRC staff has now completed its review of your application and supplemental information, and concluded that it now provides technical information in sufficient detail to enable the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed amendment in terms of regulatory requirements and the

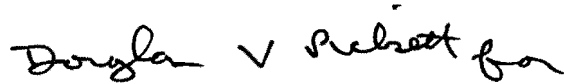
J. Shea

- 2 -

protection of public health and safety and the environment. Given the lesser scope and depth of the acceptance review as compared to the detailed technical review, there may be instances in which issues that impact the NRC staff's ability to complete the detailed technical review are identified despite completion of an adequate acceptance review. You will be advised of any further information needed to support the NRC staff's detailed technical review by separate correspondence.

If you have any questions, please contact Andy Hon, Project Manager, at (301) 415-8480.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin C. Poole".

Justin C. Poole, Sr. Project Manager  
Watts Bar Special Projects Branch  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-390

cc: Distribution via Listserv

J. Shea

- 2 -

protection of public health and safety and the environment. Given the lesser scope and depth of the acceptance review as compared to the detailed technical review, there may be instances in which issues that impact the NRC staff's ability to complete the detailed technical review are identified despite completion of an adequate acceptance review. You will be advised of any further information needed to support the NRC staff's detailed technical review by separate correspondence.

If you have any questions, please contact Andy Hon, Project Manager, at (301) 415-8480.

Sincerely,

**/RA by DPickett for/**

Justin C. Poole, Senior. Project Manager  
Watts Bar Special Projects Branch  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-390

cc: Distribution via Listserv

**DISTRIBUTION:**

PUBLIC  
LPWB Reading File  
RidsAcrsAcnw\_MailCTR Resource  
RidsNrrDorILpwb Resource  
RidsNrrLABClayton Resource  
RidsNrrPMWattsBar1 Resource  
RidsOgcRp Resource  
RidsRgn2MailCenter Resource

**ADAMS Accession No. ML12219A079** \*By e-mail dated August 6, 2012

OFFICE	LPWB/PM	LPWB/LA	LPWB/BC	LPWB/PM
NAME	AHon	BClayton*	GWilson	JPoole (DPickett for)
DATE	8/6/12	8/6/12	8/7/12	8/7/12

**OFFICIAL RECORD COPY**