

January 9, 2013

Dr. J. Sam Armijo, Chairman
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
LETTER, DATED NOVEMBER 26, 2013, ON THE INTERIM REVIEW OF WATTS
BAR NUCLEAR PLANT UNIT 2 OPERATING LICENSE APPLICATION

Dear Dr. Armijo:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter dated November 26, 2013 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML13318A154). Your letter provided the views of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) on the status of the ongoing construction, inspection, and licensing review of the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 2 (WBN 2) operating license (OL) application. Your letter also included the ACRS's review of the NRC staff's supplemental safety evaluation reports (SSERs) 21–26. The NRC staff has considered the two conclusions provided in your letter and has the following responses:

ACRS Conclusion 1

Our review to date has not identified any issue which we do not expect to be satisfactorily resolved prior to the currently scheduled OL issuance. Specific items for future review are identified in the discussion below.

NRC Response

The NRC staff agrees and plans on providing the ACRS with a presentation on the seven items highlighted in the discussion section in a future ACRS meeting. These were Open Items 59, 61, 63, 91, 93, 133, and 134 from Appendix HH of SSER 26. In addition to these open items, the ACRS requested that the NRC staff provide a presentation on how the feasibility of all operator manual actions taken in response to a fire is evaluated according to the guidance in Regulatory Guide 1.189, Revision 2, "Fire Protection for Nuclear Plants." The NRC staff plans on working with the ACRS to provide a presentation to address this item.

ACRS Conclusion 2

The integration of WBN 2 as the second unit in a dual-unit plant which has operated as a single-unit for almost 20 years will require specific, detailed planning to ensure against creating challenges to Watts Bar Nuclear Unit 1 (WBN 1) operation.

J. Armijo

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NRC Response

The NRC staff agrees and continues to monitor this through the oversight process.

I appreciate the comments ACRS has provided and look forward to working with the Committee as the staff completes its review in 2014.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Mark A. Satorius
Executive Director
for Operations

cc: Chairman Macfarlane
Commissioner Svinicki
Commissioner Apostolakis
Commissioner Magwood
Commissioner Ostendorff
SECY

J. Armijo

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