



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

May 26, 2015

SECRETARY

COMMISSION VOTING RECORD

DECISION ITEM: SECY-15-0068

TITLE: WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 2 – REVIEW STATUS  
AND AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF  
NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION FOR OPERATING  
LICENSE ISSUANCE

The Commission (with all Commissioners agreeing) approved the subject paper as recorded in the Staff Requirements Memorandum (SRM) of May 26, 2015.

This Record contains a summary of voting on this matter together with the individual vote sheets, views and comments of the Commission.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annette L. Vietti-Cook", written over a horizontal line.

Annette L. Vietti-Cook  
Secretary of the Commission

Enclosures:

1. Voting Summary
2. Commissioner Vote Sheets

cc: Chairman Burns  
Commissioner Svinicki  
Commissioner Ostendorff  
Commissioner Baran  
OGC  
EDO  
PDR

VOTING SUMMARY - SECY-15-0068

RECORDED VOTES

	APRVD	DISAPRVD	ABSTAIN	NOT PARTICIP	COMMENTS	DATE
CHRM. BURNS	X				X	5/21/15
COMR. SVINICKI	X				X	5/11/15
COMR. OSTENDORFF	X				X	5/12/15
COMR. BARAN	X				X	5/21/15

**NOTATION VOTE**

**RESPONSE SHEET**

TO: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary

FROM: Chairman Burns

SUBJECT: SECY-15-0068: Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 2—  
Review Status and Authority of the Director of the  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation for Operating  
License Issuance

Approved   X   Disapproved        Abstain       

Not Participating       

COMMENTS: Below        Attached   X   None       

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

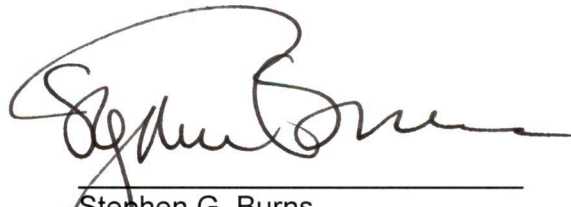
  21 May 2015    
DATE

Entered in "STARS" Yes   X   No

**Chairman Burns' Remarks on SECY-15-0068**  
**Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 2—Review Status and Authority of the**  
**Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation for Operating License Issuance**

I approve the staff's recommendation to grant the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) the authority to issue a full-power operating license, which is effective upon issuance, to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) for Watts Bar Nuclear Plant (WBN) Unit 2 if the Director of NRR determines that the applicable findings may be made and the proceeding is uncontested. As the staff noted in SECY-15-0068, if the proceeding is contested, the regulations of 10 CFR Part 2 will control and may require the Director to issue, deny, or appropriately condition the license in accordance with the presiding officer's initial decision once that decision becomes effective.

In the past, a low-power operating license was issued to allow fuel loading and some low-power physics testing, followed by a full-power operating license after the licensee had demonstrated its ability to operate the facility within the design and licensing basis. See 49 Fed. Reg. 47906; September 30, 1981. However, as the staff noted, this two-step process is not required by the regulations when a matter is uncontested, nor has TVA requested a low-power operating license. Given that TVA has operated WBN Unit 1 for almost 20 years and that WBN Units 1 and 2 share a similar design and licensing basis, I agree with the NRC staff that a full-power operating license is appropriate in this case.



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Stephen G. Burns  
21 May 2015

**NOTATION VOTE**

**RESPONSE SHEET**

TO: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary

FROM: COMMISSIONER SVINICKI

SUBJECT: SECY-15-0068: Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 2—  
Review Status and Authority of the Director of the  
Office of Nuclear Reactor for Operating License  
Issuance

Approved XX Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_\_\_

Not Participating \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS: Below \_\_\_\_\_ Attached XX None \_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

05/ 11 /15  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

Entered on "STARS" Yes ☒ No \_\_\_\_\_

**Commissioner Svinicki's Comments on SECY-15-0068**  
**Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 2 – Review Status and Authority of the Director of the**  
**Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation for Operating License Issuance**

I approve granting the authority to the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) to issue a full-power operating license, effective upon issuance, to the Tennessee Valley Authority for Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 2. The Director of NRR shall exercise this authority upon determining that the applicable findings are made.

Over the years that I have been conducting my due diligence, as a Commissioner, interacting with the NRC licensing staff, as well as the staff in Region II and those inspectors resident at the site responsible for construction inspection and oversight, I have continued to be impressed with the rigor and thoughtfulness with which they have approached this unique project. The brevity of the staff's paper before me, requesting this significant approval, is in inverse proportion to the outsize measure of respect they have earned from me, as I have engaged with them and learned from them about the significant, multi-year effort that has culminated in this request. They, and the NRC regulatory processes they have implemented at Watts Bar Nuclear Unit 2, have my full confidence and I offer this approval without reservation.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kristine L. Svinicki

05/11/15





**Commissioner Ostendorff's Comments on SECY-15-0068,  
"Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 2 – Review Status and Authority of the Director of the  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation for Operating License Issuance."**

I approve the staff's recommendation and grant the Director of NRR the authority to issue a full-power operating license, which is effective upon issuance, to TVA for WBN Unit 2 if the Director of NRR determines that the applicable findings may be made and the proceeding is uncontested. However, if the Director of NRR determines that the applicable findings may be made and the proceeding is contested at that time, the regulations of 10 CFR Part 2 will control.

I would like to thank the staff for its efforts on this significant licensing effort. I have visited the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 2, three times as an NRC Commissioner. This has provided me with the opportunity to observe first-hand the applicant's significant efforts to refurbish and replace significant portions of the plant, and to interact with our construction inspection team. I have full confidence in the staff's oversight of this construction project. Further, I appreciate the staff's efforts in keeping the Commission informed on licensee and licensing activities for this unique project, which has included multiple SECY Information Papers and the recent Commission meeting in October 2014. Finally, I would like to thank the Advisory Committee for Reactor Safeguards for its review and insights into this project and for providing its recommendation to the Commission in February 2015. I agree with Commissioner Svinicki that the brevity of this particular SECY is not reflective of the significant, multi-year effort that has culminated in this request. Likewise, I join Commissioner Svinicki in offering my approval without reservation.



**NOTATION VOTE**

**RESPONSE SHEET**

TO: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary


FROM: Commissioner Baran

SUBJECT: SECY-15-0068: Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 2—  
Review Status and Authority of the Director of the  
Office of Nuclear Reactor for Operating License  
Issuance

Approved XX Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_\_\_

Not Participating \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS: Below \_\_\_\_\_ Attached XX None \_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

5/21/15  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

Entered on "STARS" Yes ☒ No \_\_\_\_\_

**Commissioner Baran's Comments on SECY-15-0068,  
"Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 2-Review Status and Authority of the  
Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation for Operating License Issuance"**

I approve the staff's recommendation to grant the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) the authority to issue a full-power operating license, effective upon issuance, to the Tennessee Valley Authority for Watts Bar Unit 2. The Director of NRR may exercise this authority if he determines that the applicable findings can be made and if the proceeding is uncontested. If the Director of NRR determines that the applicable findings may be made but the proceeding is contested at that time, the regulations in 10 CFR Part 2 will control.

Having visited this site in November, I have a heightened appreciation for the work that led to the staff's recommendation. Important work remains to be done. There are still open items in the Supplemental Safety Evaluation Report (SSER) that need to be resolved and a number of required inspections to be performed. I appreciate the NRC staff's commitment to take the time necessary to address these open items and ensure that the remaining licensing and inspection activities are carefully completed. I also note the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards' recommendation that Watts Bar Unit 2 "should be approved following completion of remaining staff inspections and closure of remaining open items." Moreover, the NRC staff has established an internal process that will provide the Director of NRR with sufficient information to determine whether he can make the findings in 10 CFR 50.57 and whether any license conditions may be necessary.

The NRC staff has done a solid job of keeping the public informed of developments by making information on Watts Bar Unit 2 available on the agency's public website, as well as conducting public meetings throughout the application review process. During these final stages of review and inspection, the NRC staff should maintain its focus on transparency and sharing information with the public.

I commend both Headquarters and Region II staff for the years of work that went into assessing, reviewing, and inspecting the unique issues associated with the completion of construction of Watts Bar Unit 2. I would also like to thank the ACRS for its feedback.