



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

June 26, 2015

Mr. Joseph W. Shea
Vice President, Nuclear Licensing
Tennessee Valley Authority
1101 Market Street, LP 3R-C
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

SUBJECT: WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 1 – ACCEPTANCE OF REQUESTED
LICENSE AMENDMENT TO INCREASE TRITIUM-PRODUCING BURNABLE
ABSORBER RODS (TAC NO. MF6050)

Dear Mr. Shea:

By letter dated March 31, 2015 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML15098A446), Tennessee Valley Authority (the licensee) submitted a license amendment for Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 1. The proposed amendment request would revise Technical Specification (TS) 4.2.1, "Fuel Assemblies"; TS 3.5.1, "Accumulators"; Surveillance Requirement (SR) 3.5.1.4; TS 3.5.4, "Refueling Water Storage Tank"; and SR 3.5.4.3, to increase the maximum number of tritium-producing burnable absorber rods and to delete outdated information related to the tritium production program.

The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff to complete its detailed technical review. The acceptance review is also intended to identify whether the application has any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements or the licensing basis of the plant.

On May 15, 2015, the NRC issued a letter documenting the need for information supplementing the requested license amendment before the application could be accepted for review (ADAMS Accession No. ML15127A250). Supplement 1, regarding operator manual actions, was submitted on May 27, 2015 (ADAMS Accession No. ML15147A611). Supplement 2, regarding radiological consequences and dose, was submitted on June 15, 2015 (ADAMS Accession No. ML15169B117). 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 TSs) 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 reviewed your application and the supplements dated May 27, 2015, and June 15, 2015, and concluded that they do provide 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 protection of public health and safety and the environment. Given the

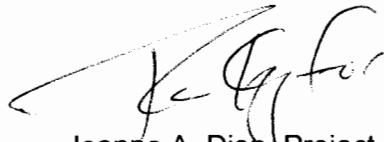
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lesser scope and depth of the acceptance review as compared to the detailed technical review, there may be instances in which issues that impact the NRC staff's ability to complete the detailed technical review are identified, despite completion of 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 me at (301) 415-1349 or jeanne.dion@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeanne A. Dion', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Jeanne A. Dion, Project Manager
Watts Bar Special Projects Branch
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-390

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If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1349 or jeanne.dion@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA by RKuntz for/

Jeanne A. Dion, Project Manager
Watts Bar Special Projects Branch
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-390

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***by e-mail**

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NAME	JDion(RKuntz for)	BClayton	SWeerakkody	UShoop
DATE	6/25/15	6/23/15	6/25/15	6/25/15
OFFICE	NRR/DORL/LPWB/BC	NRR/DORL/LPWB/PM		
NAME	JQuichocho	JDion (RKuntz for)		
DATE	6/26/15	6/26/15		

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