

NRR-DMPSPEm Resource

From: Schaaf, Robert
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 3:51 PM
To: 'Wells, Russell Douglas'
Cc: Hulvey, Kimberly Dawn; 'Edmondson, Carla'; Saba, Farideh; Shoop, Undine
Subject: Watts Bar Units 1 and 2 - Acceptance for Review - Application to Adopt 10 CFR 50.69, Risk-Informed Categorization and Treatment of SSCs for NPPs (L-2018-LLA-0493)

Russ,

By letter dated November 29, 2018 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML18334A363), the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA, the licensee) submitted a license amendment request (LAR) to Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-90 and NPF-96 for Watts Bar Nuclear Plant (WBN), Units 1 and 2, respectively. The proposed amendments would modify the WBN Facility Operating Licenses to allow for the implementation of the provisions of 10 CFR, Part 50.69, "Risk-Informed Categorization and Treatment of Structures, Systems and Components for Nuclear Power Reactors."

The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of this amendment request. The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the 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.

Consistent with 10 CFR 50.90, 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 reviewed TVA's application and concluded that it does 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 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. TVA will be advised of any further information needed to support the NRC staff's detailed technical review by separate correspondence.

Based on the information provided in TVA's submittal, the NRC staff has estimated that this licensing request will take approximately 400 staff hours to complete. The NRC staff expects to complete this review in approximately 15 months, which is April 2020. As we discussed by telephone on Tuesday, January 8, while this target completion date exceeds the TVA requested completion date of February 2020, you indicated that this completion date would be acceptable to TVA. The staff will make every effort to accelerate the review, if possible, to meet TVA's requested completion date. If there are emergent complexities or challenges in our review that would cause changes to the initial forecasted completion date or significant changes in the forecasted hours, the reasons for the changes, along with the new estimates, will be communicated during routine interactions with the assigned project manager.

These estimates are based on the NRC staff's initial review of the application and they could change, due to several factors including requests for additional information, and unanticipated addition of scope to the review.

Additional delay may occur if the submittal is provided to the NRC in advance or in parallel with industry program initiatives or pilot applications.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 301-415-6020.

Regards,

Robert G. Schaaf

Senior Project Manager

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
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From: Schaaf, Robert

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