

**From:** Green, Kimberly  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 6, 2021 3:46 PM  
**To:** Wells, Russell Douglas  
**Subject:** Acceptance Review Results for Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 1, License Amendment Request to Revise Technical Specification 3.7.12 for Continuous Opening of the ABSCE Boundary (EPID L-2021-LLA-0035)

Dear Mr. Wells:

By letter dated March 3, 2021 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML21062A267), Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) submitted a license amendment request (LAR) for the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant (Watts Bar), Unit 1. The proposed amendment would add a one-time exception to the existing Note in the Limiting Condition for Operation (LCO) for Watts Bar, Unit 1 Technical Specification (TS) 3.7.12, "Auxiliary Building Gas Treatment System (ABGTS)," to allow the Auxiliary Building Secondary Containment Enclosure boundary to be opened, at specific controlled access points, on a continuous basis during the Watts Bar, Unit 2, Cycle 4 refueling outage (U2R4) when the Unit 2 replacement steam generators are scheduled to be installed.

The purpose of this email is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of the proposed LAR. 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 Section 50.90 of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, 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 applications regarding the 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 LAR 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 amendments 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. If additional information is needed, you will be advised by separate correspondence.

Based on the information provided in TVA's submittal, the NRC staff has estimated that this licensing request will take approximately 270 hours to complete and that the review can be completed by February 1, 2022. 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 the routine interactions. These estimates are based on the 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.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1627.

Sincerely,  
Kimberly J. Green, Senior Project Manager  
Plant Licensing Branch II-2  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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**From:** Green, Kimberly

**Created By:** Kimberly.Green@nrc.gov

**Recipients:**

"Wells, Russell Douglas" <rdwells0@tva.gov>

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