



NRC NEWS

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NRC ISSUES LICENSE TO TVA AUTHORIZING RECEIPT OF FRESH NUCLEAR FUEL FOR WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT UNIT 2

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued a license to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) authorizing the receipt of fresh nuclear fuel for eventual use in the proposed Watts Bar Nuclear Plant Unit 2, located in Spring City, Tenn.

The license, issued under NRC regulations at 10 CFR Part 70, authorizes TVA to receive, possess, inspect, and store 193 assemblies containing fresh nuclear fuel enriched up to 5 percent in the isotope uranium-235. The license does not authorize use of the fuel in a reactor – the NRC is currently reviewing TVA’s application for an operating license under 10 CFR Part 50 for Watts Bar Unit 2. The NRC expects to complete that review in 2012.

Issuance of the license follows publication June 13 in the *Federal Register* of an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact from the proposed licensing action.

TVA applied for the Part 70 license on Nov. 12, 2009. TVA intends to store the fresh fuel in the fuel storage vault or spent fuel pool areas common to Units 1 and 2. The Part 70 license will remain effective until June 30, 2013, or when the Part 50 operating license takes effect if issued prior to that date.

The NRC issued construction authorizations for Watts Bar Units 1 and 2 in 1973. In 1985, as construction of Unit 1 was nearing completion, the NRC identified several safety issues and TVA decided to delay completion of both units. Unit 1 completed construction, received its operating license and began commercial power production in 1996, and was the last new commercial nuclear power reactor to come online in the United States. In August 2007, TVA notified NRC that it intended to complete construction of Unit 2, and in March 2009, TVA supplemented its original operating license application for Unit 2.

The license and the safety evaluation report documenting the technical review of the license application will be available through the NRC’s ADAMS document database at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> using accession number [ML110830153](http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html).

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