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NRC NAMES NEW RESIDENT INSPECTOR FOR WATTS BAR UNIT 2 CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

NRC officials in Atlanta have selected Kenneth Miller as a new resident inspector for the construction activities underway at the Tennessee Valley Authority's Watts Bar Unit 2, located near Spring City, Tenn., about 60 miles southwest of Knoxville.



Miller has been a reactor inspector in the NRC's Region II office in Atlanta since early 2007. Prior to joining the NRC, he was employed as an engineer in the nuclear power industry for more than 35 years, during construction, startup and operation of 19 commercial nuclear plants. That experience also includes a stint as an NRC consultant during the completion of the first Watts Bar unit.

Miller has a Bachelors degree in Mechanical Engineering from Northeastern University in Boston and a Masters of Science degree in Systems Management from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. In addition, he is a registered professional engineer in five states.

"Ken Miller has the knowledge, training and experience to help ensure that all the activities that are part of the Watts Bar Unit 2 completion will be done according to NRC regulations and in a way that protects people and the environment," said NRC Region II Deputy Administrator for Construction Loren Plisco.

Miller joins Senior Resident Inspector William Bearden and Resident Inspector Tomy Nazario, the NRC inspectors currently assigned to Watts Bar Unit 2 while TVA completes construction. Unit 1, the operating reactor at the Watts Bar site, has its own NRC resident inspectors. NRC Site Secretary Linda Chattin works with all the agency's inspectors at the Watts bar site.

TVA submitted the original application for the two Watts Bar units in 1976. TVA finished Unit 1 and the NRC issued a license in 1996. TVA deferred completion of Unit 2 in the mid-1980s, but restarted construction with NRC oversight in 2007.

Each operating U.S. commercial nuclear power plant site has at least two NRC resident inspectors. They serve as the agency's eyes and ears at the facility, conducting regular

inspections, monitoring significant work projects, and interacting with plant workers and the public. Inspectors can serve for up to seven years at any one site. Construction sites have their own NRC resident inspectors and the number assigned is dependent on the work being done at each site.

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