



NRC NEWS

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, REGION II

61 Forsyth Street SW, Atlanta GA 30303

Web Site: www.nrc.gov

No. II-05-040

October 18, 2005

CONTACT: Ken Clark (404)562-4416

E-mail: OPA2@nrc.gov

Roger Hannah (404)562-4417

NRC SCHEDULES REGULATORY CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT CONCERN

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has scheduled a regulatory conference with officials of the Tennessee Valley Authority on Oct. 25 in Atlanta to discuss the risk significance of an inspection finding at the company's Watts Bar nuclear power plant, located near Spring City, Tenn.

NRC and TVA officials will discuss the significance of an NRC inspection finding related to events while the plant was shut down in February of this year. NRC inspectors found that operators at the Watts Bar plant made decisions which resulted in pressurizer valves lifting several times. The inspectors determined that the operators may not have adequately followed their procedures and their actions were an apparent violation of the plant's technical specifications.

The NRC evaluates regulatory performance at commercial nuclear power plants with a color-coded system which classifies findings as either green, white, yellow or red, in increasing order of safety significance. The NRC's preliminary evaluation determined that this issue at Watts Bar appears to be greater than green or, in other words, greater than very low safety significance.

The meeting is open to public observation and is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. in the NRC's Region II office, located on the 24th floor of the Atlanta Federal Center at 61 Forsyth Street SW in Atlanta.

No decisions on the final safety significance, apparent violations or possible enforcement action will be made during the conference. Those decisions will be made by NRC officials at a later time.

###