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NRC Extends Construction Permit for Watts Bar Unit 2

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has extended the expiration date of the construction permit for the unfinished Unit 2 at the Watts Bar nuclear power plant to Sept. 30, 2016. The Tennessee Valley Authority, which operates Unit 1 at the plant about 10 miles south of Spring City, Tenn., requested the extension on May 17, 2012.

The NRC staff's [environmental assessment](#) of the extension request, which found no significant impact on the environment, was published in the *Federal Register* on Oct. 22, 2013. The agency has issued the staff's safety evaluation of the extension, as well as an [order](#) extending the construction permit. The documents will appear shortly in the *Federal Register*. Any person adversely affected by the order may request a hearing within 20 days of its publication in the *Register*, specifically listing whether TVA failed to show good cause for the extension and why the NRC should not have issued the order. The order includes instructions on how to file a hearing request.

TVA has informed the NRC it intends to complete Unit 2 and request an operating license in 2014. The NRC will decide whether to issue a license for Unit 2 in accordance with the agency's regulations. Unit 2, if completed, would be an 1,100-MWe, Westinghouse-designed pressurized water reactor essentially the same as the operating Unit 1. More information on Watts Bar Unit 2 is available on the NRC's [website](#).