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NRC Schedules Meeting to Receive TVA Update on Work Environment Issues

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has scheduled an Aug. 27 public meeting with Tennessee Valley Authority officials to be briefed on the status and progress of actions to improve the safety conscious work environment at the Watts Bar nuclear power plant.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. at the Comfort Inn, 2811 Decatur Pike, Athens, Tenn. The plant is located near Spring City, approximately 60 miles southwest of Knoxville.

On March 23, 2016, the NRC staff issued a letter to TVA expressing concern that some operations employees may not have felt comfortable raising safety concerns at the plant. Following a mediation session in June 2017, the NRC issued a Confirmatory Order to TVA. The order requires specific corrective actions to address the safety conscious work environment issues. Although the issues were identified at the Watts Bar nuclear plant, TVA also agreed to implement actions at its Browns Ferry and Sequoyah nuclear power plants, as well as at its corporate offices.

The NRC has continued to inspect and evaluate those corrective actions and held a previous update meeting in fall 2018.

During the Aug. 27 meeting, TVA is expected to provide another update on those corrective actions and NRC officials will likely ask questions and discuss the agency's continuing oversight regarding the issue.

NRC staff will be available after the business portion of the meeting to answer questions from members of the public and the media. Those unable to attend who would like to listen to the meeting via a toll-free teleconference line should contact the NRC's Ryan Taylor by Aug. 26 at 404-997-4630 or email ryan.taylor@nrc.gov.