

Watts Bar 2 Feasibility Project Underway

Technical personnel are now arriving at TVA's Watts Bar Nuclear Plant to begin the detailed scoping, estimating and planning (DSEP) study for the possible completion of Unit 2, TVA officials said. Once fully staffed by the end of February, about 160 DSEP project personnel will be working onsite. The project team expects to deliver a report to the TVA Board by late summer or early fall.

Karl Singer, TVA chief nuclear officer, said with demand for power in the Tennessee Valley increasing between one and two percent per year, TVA expects to need additional base-load power early in the next decade. That is in addition to the base-load power Browns Ferry Unit 1 will begin providing once it goes on line in the coming months.

WBN 2 could provide more than 1,150 megawatts to meet a projected increase in demand by 2012 and TVA forecasts the need for even more base-load power by about 2017 to meet future growth in the Valley, officials said. The WBN study will provide a rigorous and robust evaluation of the engineering, modifications and construction, as well as associated costs, required to complete the unfinished unit.