



NRC NEWS

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

Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials in Atlanta have selected Russ Lewis as a 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.



Prior to being named the resident inspector for Watts Bar Unit 2, Lewis served as a senior reactor inspector in the NRC's Region II office in Atlanta, where he led modification and design inspections at several nuclear plants in the southeast. He joined the agency in May 2005 as a Region II reactor inspector in the electrical area. Before joining the NRC, Lewis worked as an engineer for several companies including GE, Progress Energy and ABB.

Lewis served more than 12 years in the U.S. Navy and is currently a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy Reserve. Russ has a BSME from Auburn University, an MBA from Charleston Southern University, and also attended Georgia Tech.

"Russ Lewis 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.

Lewis joins Senior Resident Inspector William Bearden, Resident Inspector Tomy Nazario and Resident Inspector Kenneth Miller, 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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