



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

Docket

June 29, 1989

Docket Nos. 50-259, 50-260, 50-296,
50-327, 50-328, 50-390
and 50-391

Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, Jr.
Senior Vice President, Nuclear Power
Tennessee Valley Authority
6N 38A Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

SUBJECT: NRC GENERIC LETTER 88-11, "NRC POSITION ON RADIATION EMBRITTLEMENT OF REACTOR VESSEL MATERIALS AND ITS IMPACT ON PLANT OPERATIONS" (TACS 71467, 71468, 71469, 71548, 71549, 71567, 71568)

On July 12, 1988, NRC Generic Letter (GL) 88-11 was issued. All holders of operating licenses or construction permits for nuclear power reactors were requested to use the methods described in Revision 2 to Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.99, "Radiation Embrittlement of Reactor Vessel Materials," to predict the effects of neutron radiation on reactor vessel materials, as required by Paragraph V. A. of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix G, unless different methods could be justified. Licensees were to submit the results of their technical analysis and a schedule for the actions they propose to take.

R. Gridley, Manager, Nuclear Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, provided TVA's response to the subject generic letter for the Browns Ferry, Sequoyah, and Watts Bar Nuclear Plants by letter dated December 9, 1988. NRC staff has reviewed this response. My letter to you dated June 7, 1989, accepted TVA's commitment for compliance to this generic letter with regard to the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant (SQN), Units 1 and 2. The following determinations have been made with regard to Browns Ferry and Watts Bar:

1. Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant (BFN)

When the RG 1.99, Revision 2 methodology is used, the current pressure-temperature (P-T) technical specifications (TS) curves for Units 2 and 3 are bounding through the next two operating cycles, or approximately three years. The P-T curve for Unit 1 is not bounded using the RG 1.99, Revision 2 analysis. However, all units at Browns Ferry are presently shutdown. Unit 2 restart is anticipated during 1989. Projected restart dates for Units 1 and 3 have not yet been determined. We understand that TVA agrees to submit TS revisions for the three units before March 1, 1991 to comply with RG 1.99, Revision 2. If in the event fuel load for Unit 1 occurs prior to March 1, 1991, TS revisions for Unit 1 will be submitted to the NRC for approval prior to fuel load for the unit.

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2. Watts Bar Nuclear Plant (WBN)

The NRC staff understands that TVA will use the methodology of RG 1.99, Revision 2 to develop the initial P-T curves for the WBN TS. These curves will be submitted to the NRC for approval prior to fuel load of WBN, Unit 1.

The NRC staff has determined that TVA's response of December 9, 1988 adequately addresses those items requested in GL 88-11. Your response to the generic letter is therefore satisfactory. We will review your new P-T limits to RG 1.99, Revision 2 when they are submitted. The conditions for the submittal of these revisions for BFN, and WBN have been outlined above.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Suzanne C. Black, Assistant Director
for TVA Projects
TVA Projects Division
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

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