



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

April 8, 2013

Mr. Joseph W. Shea
Vice President, Nuclear Licensing
Tennessee Valley Authority
3R Lookout Place LP 3D-C
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

SUBJECT: BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 – ACCEPTANCE OF
REQUESTED LICENSING ACTION RE: AMENDMENT (TAC NOS. MF0877,
MF0878, AND MF0879)

Dear Mr. Shea:

By letter dated February 28, 2013, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), submitted a license amendment request for Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant (BFN) Units 1, 2, and 3. The proposed license amendment would add 3 AREVA NP analysis methodologies to the list of approved methods to be used in determining core operating limits in the core operating limits report in Technical Specification (TS) 5.6.5. This proposed change would support a planned transition to AREVA ATRIUM-10XM (XM) fuel design. In addition, the amendment would revise TS 2.1.1.2 to change the safety limit minimum critical power ratio value for BFN Unit 2. TVA intends to transition to XM fuel design starting with Unit 2's Cycle 19 (in spring 2015), Unit 3 in spring 2016, and followed by Unit 1 in fall 2016.

Consistent with Section 50.90 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), an amendment to the license (including the TSs) must fully describe the changes requested, and following as far as applicable, the form prescribed for original applications. Section 50.34 of 10 CFR addresses the content of technical information required. This section stipulates that the submittal address the design and operating characteristics, unusual or novel design features, and principal safety considerations.

The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of this request. The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review. The acceptance review is also intended to identify whether the application has any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements or the licensing basis of the plant.

The NRC staff has reviewed your application and concluded that it does provide technical information in sufficient detail to enable the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed amendment in terms of regulatory requirements and the protection of public health and safety and the environment. Given the lesser scope and depth of the acceptance review as compared to the detailed technical review, there may be instances in which issues that impact the NRC staff's ability to complete the detailed technical review are identified despite completion of an adequate

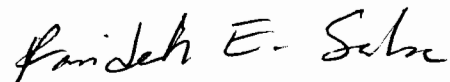
J. Shea

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The proposed change would support a planned transition to AREVA ATRIUM-10XM (XM) fuel design..

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1447.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Farideh E. Saba". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

Farideh E. Saba, Senior Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch II-2
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-259, 50-260, and 50-296

cc: Distribution via Listserv

J. Shea

- 2 -

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If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1447.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Farideh E. Saba, Senior Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch II-2
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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*** by memorandum**

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