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Tennessee Valley Authority, Post Office Box 2000, Decatur, Alabama 35609

June 30, 1995

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission ATTN: Document Control Desk Washington, D.C. 20555

Gentlemen:

In the Matter of) Docket Nos. 50-260 Tennessee Valley Authority) 50-296

BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT (BFN) - UNITS 2 AND 3 -SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR PROPOSED TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION (TS) 359 - SCRAM PILOT AIR HEADER LOW PRESSURE TRIP

This letter provides supplemental information requested by the NRC Staff for the review of proposed TS 359. TVA submitted this proposed TS on May 11, 1995, primarily to reflect the interim addition of the scram pilot air header low pressure trip function on Unit 3.

The scram pilot air header low pressure trip function is of Class IE single failure proof design and is composed of seismically and environmentally qualified safety related components. The actuation logic of the scram pilot air header low pressure trip function employs two channels in a one out of two taken twice configuration. Functional testing, calibration, and maintenance places the affected channel in the tripped condition. This places the Reactor Protection System in a half scram condition.

The proposed six month functional test frequency for the scram pilot air header low pressure trip function on Unit 3 is the same as that currently in the Unit 2 TSs for this function. In general, functional test frequencies are based on industry accepted practices and engineering judgement. Consideration is given to the conditions required to perform a given test, the ease of performing the test, and the likelihood of a change in the system/component status during

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the performance of the test. Specifically, for the scram pilot air header low pressure trip function, the once per six month functional test frequency is acceptable due to:

- 1. The functional reliability previously demonstrated by these switches on Unit 2 during Cycles 6 and 7,
- 2. The need for minimizing the radiation exposure associated with the functional testing of these switches, and
- 3. The increased risk to plant availability while the plant is in a half-scram condition during the performance of the functional testing versus the limited increase in reliability that would be obtained by more frequent functional testing.

A single failure of one of the scram pilot air header low pressure trip switches would not result in the loss of the trip function. It is highly unlikely that two switches in one channel would experience an undetected failure during the period between six month functional tests. Enclosure 1 contains copies of the appropriate Units 2 and 3 TS Bases page marked-up to show this additional justification for the functional test frequency. Enclosure 3 forwards the revised Units 2 and 3 TS Bases page that incorporates this information.

The proposed 18 month calibration frequency for the scram pilot air header low pressure trip function on Unit 3 is the same as that currently in the Unit 2 TSs for this function. Setpoint scaling calculations were performed to provide assurance that there is adequate margin between the required trip setpoint and the limiting safety system settings to account for inaccuracies in the instrument loop. The . calculation methodology is based on Regulatory Guide 1.105, Instrument Setpoints for Safety Related Systems. Regulatory Guide 1.105 endorses Instrument Society of America (ISA) Standard ISA-S67.04 - 1982, Setpoints for Nuclear Safety Related Instrumentation Used in Nuclear Power Plants, as an acceptable method for ensuring that setpoints stay within technical specification limits. The Unit 2 scram pilot air header low pressure trip switches have not shown as found trip values below the minimum acceptable setpoint during the last two cycles of operation.

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The Safety Analysis for this proposed change stated that the scram outlet valves begin to unseat as the air pressure drops below 43 psig. Additional reviews have determined that this value should be 40 psig.

There are no new commitments contained in this letter. If you have any questions, please contact me at (205) 729-2636.

Sincerely,

Redro Salas Manager of Site Licensing

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