



Tennessee Valley Authority, Post Office Box 2000, Spring City, Tennessee 37381-2000

March 21, 2013

10 CFR 21

ATTN: Document Control Desk
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 1
Facility Operating License No. NPF-90
NRC Docket No. 50-390

Subject: Final Closure - Unexpected Degradation of Vital Batteries III and IV

- References:
1. Letter from TVA to NRC, Licensee Event Report 390/2012-001, "Failure to Meet Technical Specifications due to Issues Associated with Vital Battery Surveillance Program," dated March 16, 2012 (ADAMS Accession No. ML12076A180)
 2. Letter from TVA to NRC, "10 CFR 21 Interim Report - Unexpected Degradation of Vital Batteries III and IV," dated May 25, 2012 (ML12145A670)
 3. Letter from TVA to NRC, "Second Interim Report Pursuant to 10 CFR 21 - Unexpected Degradation of Vital Batteries III and IV," dated July 24, 2012 (ML12206A055)
 4. Letter from TVA to NRC, "Third Interim Report Pursuant to 10 CFR 21 - Unexpected Degradation of Vital Batteries III and IV," dated September 17, 2012 (ML12261A473)
 5. Letter from TVA to NRC, "Fourth Interim Report Pursuant to 10 CFR 21 - Unexpected Degradation of Vital Batteries III and IV," dated November 21, 2012 (ML12326A714)
 6. Letter from TVA to NRC, "Interim Report Pursuant to 10 CFR 21 - Unexpected Degradation of Vital Batteries III and IV," dated January 22, 2013 (ML13023A047)

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Page 2
March 21, 2013

On March 16, 2012, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) submitted Licensee Event Report (LER) 390/2012-001, "Failure to Meet Technical Specifications due to Issues Associated with Vital Battery Surveillance Program." The LER described an incident where the acceptance criterion of Technical Specification Surveillance Requirement 3.8.4.14 was not met due to unexpected degradation of Vital Batteries III and IV.

Preliminarily, TVA determined that a manufacturing defect was the direct cause of the unexpected degradation. However, on March 13, 2013, TVA, in conjunction with a third party vendor, concluded that the unexpected loss in battery capacity was not a result of manufacturing defects. This issue has been entered into the Watts Bar Corrective Action Program for resolution.

Since the unexpected loss in battery capacity was not a result of manufacturing defects, the event described in LER 390/2012-001 is not reportable pursuant to 10 CFR 21.

There are no new regulatory commitments contained in this letter. Should you have any questions concerning this submittal, please contact D. K. Guinn, WBN Site Licensing Manager, at (423) 365-1589.

Respectfully,



Timothy P. Cleary
Site Vice President
Watts Bar Nuclear Plant

cc:

NRC Regional Administrator - Region II

NRC Senior Resident Inspector - Watts Bar Nuclear Plant