

January 27, 2000

Mr. J. A. Scalice
Chief Nuclear Officer and
Executive Vice President
Tennessee Valley Authority
6A Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

SUBJECT: COMPLETION OF LICENSING ACTION FOR GENERIC LETTER 99-02,
"LABORATORY TESTING OF NUCLEAR-GRADE ACTIVATED CHARCOAL"
BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT UNITS 1, 2 AND 3 (TAC NOS. MA5766,
MA5767 AND MA5768)

Dear Mr. Scalice;

On June 3, 1999, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Generic Letter (GL) 99-02, "Laboratory Testing of Nuclear-grade Activated Charcoal," to all holders of operating licenses for nuclear power reactors, except those who have permanently ceased operations and have certified that fuel has been permanently removed from the reactor vessel.

The purpose of the GL was to:

- (1) Alert addressees that the NRC has determined that testing nuclear-grade activated charcoal to standards other than American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) D3803-1989, "Standard Test Method for Nuclear-Grade Activated Carbon," does not provide assurance for complying with the current licensing basis as it relates to the dose limits of General Design Criterion (GDC) 19 of Appendix A to Part 50 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) and Subpart A of 10 CFR Part 100.
- (2) Request that all addressees determine whether their Technical Specifications (TS) reference ASTM D3803-1989 for charcoal filter laboratory testing. Addressees whose TS do not reference ASTM D3803-1989 should either amend their TS to reference ASTM D3803-1989 or propose an alternative test protocol and provide the information discussed in the requested actions.
- (3) Alert addressees to the staff's intent to exercise enforcement discretion under certain conditions.
- (4) Request that all addressees send the NRC written responses to this generic letter relating to implementation of the requested actions.

In GL 99-02, the NRC staff established the following four groups of plants:

- (1) plants in compliance with their TS that test in accordance with ASTM D3803-1989
- (2) plants in compliance with their TS that test in accordance with a test protocol other than ASTM D3803-1989
- (3) plants not in compliance with their TS that test in accordance with ASTM D3803-1989
- (4) plants not in compliance with their TS that test in accordance with a test protocol other than ASTM D3803-1989

In response to GL 99-02, Mr. T.E. Abney provided a letter dated November 18, 1999 for Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant Units 1, 2 and 3. This letter provided information which indicates that the Browns Ferry units are Group 1 plants. All requested information has been provided; therefore, we consider GL 99-02 to be closed for your Browns Ferry facility. We thank you for your prompt and complete response.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Bill Long at 301-415-3026.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William O. Long, Senior Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management

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

cc: See next page

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Mr. J. A. Scalice
Tennessee Valley Authority

BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT

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