

October 26, 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: SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 2 - WITHDRAWAL OF
AMENDMENT REQUEST (TAC NO. MA5931) (TS 99-09)

Dear Mr. Scalice:

By letter dated June 7, 1999, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) applied for an amendment to the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant, Unit 2 (SQN), Operating License No. DPR-79. The proposed change would have modified the facility Technical Specifications (TS) by increasing the maximum allowed specific activity of the primary coolant from 0.35 microcuries/gram dose equivalent Iodine-131 (I-131) to 1.0 microcuries/gram dose equivalent I-131 for the Unit 2 Cycle 10 core. This change, which would have been implemented only for Cycle 10, would reverse the revision to the Unit 2 TS submitted on June 26, 1998, that implemented the criteria provided for in U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Generic Letter 95-05, "Voltage-Based Repair Criteria for Westinghouse Steam Generator Tubes Affected by Outside Diameter Stress Corrosion Cracking." The previous amendment lowered the maximum allowed specific activity of the primary coolant from 1.0 microcuries/gram dose equivalent I-131 to 0.35 microcuries/gram dose equivalent I-131 for both SQN units.

The change for Unit 2 back to 1.0 microcuries/gram was to have been a provisional allowance for operational flexibility with respect to the reactor coolant specific activity because of an unexpected increase in the specific activity associated with I-131 that occurred during startup following the U2C9 refueling outage. TVA requested that the License Amendment be issued only if needed and the NRC staff provided notification in the Federal Register on July 28, 1999 (64 FR 40907) of its consideration of the amendment.

TVA closely monitored SQN Unit 2 reactor coolant specific activity during the Cycle 10 operating cycle and, near the end of the cycle, concluded that coolant activity levels of dose equivalent I-131 continued to remain below the 0.35 microcuries/gram TS limit and that the amendment would not be needed. Based on the fact that I-131 activity had not closely approached the current TS limit and was not expected to before the outage, TVA withdrew the request by letter from Mr. Pedro Salas of your staff dated September 13, 2000. SQN Unit 2 began its Cycle 10 refueling outage on October 22, 2000. At the time of shutdown, reactor coolant I-131 dose equivalent activity was approximately 0.007 microcuries/gram.

Mr. J. A. Scalice

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The Commission has filed the enclosed Notice of Withdrawal of Application for Amendment to Facility Operating License with the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Ronald W. Hernan, Senior Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-328

Enclosure: Notice of Withdrawal

cc w/enclosure: See next page

Mr. J. A. Scalice

-2-

October 26, 2000

The Commission has filed the enclosed Notice of Withdrawal of Application for Amendment to Facility Operating License with the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,
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Ronald W. Hernan, Senior Project Manager, Section 2
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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

DOCKET NOS. 50-327 AND 50-328

NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION FOR
AMENDMENTS TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSES

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has granted the request of Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to withdraw its June 7, 1999, application for proposed amendments to Facility Operating Licenses No. DPR-79 for the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant (SQN), Unit 2, located in Hamilton County, Tennessee. Notice of Consideration of Issuance of of this amendment was published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on July 28, 1999, (64 FR 40907).

The purpose of the licensee's amendment request was to revise the Technical Specifications (TS) to increase the maximum allowed specific activity of the primary (reactor) coolant from 0.35 microcuries/gram dose equivalent Iodine-131 (I-131) to 1.0 microcuries/gram dose equivalent I-131 for the Unit 2 Cycle 10 core. The change for Unit 2 back to 1.0 microcuries/gram (the previous TS limit) was to have been a provisional allowance to provide operational flexibility with respect to the reactor coolant specific activity because an unexpected increase in the specific activity associated with I-131 occurred during startup following the previous refueling outage due presumably to minor fuel clad leakage.

By letter dated October 17, 2000, TVA withdrew the proposed change on the basis that reactor coolant dose equivalent I-131 activity had not closely approached the current TS limit and was not expected to before the refueling outage that commenced on October 22, 2000.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendments dated August 30, 1999, and TVA's letter dated October 17, 2000, which withdrew the application for the license amendment.

These Documents may be examined, and/or copied for a fee, at the Commission's Public Document room, located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland, and accessible electronically through the ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room link at the NRC Web site (<http://www.nrc.gov>).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 26th day of October 2000.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

Ronald W. Hernan, Senior Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Mr. J. A. Scalice
Tennessee Valley Authority

SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR PLANT

cc:

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