



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

June 20, 2001

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 - AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS (ASME) SECTION XI, INSERVICE INSPECTION PROGRAM, SECOND TEN-YEAR INTERVAL, REQUESTS FOR RELIEF 2-ISI-9 AND 3-ISI-1 (TAC NOS. MA8424 AND MA5953)**

This letter provides notification that TVA has updated the requests for relief 2-ISI-9 for BFN Unit 2 and 3-ISI-1 for BFN Unit 3. The relief requests are for permanent deferral (for the existing term of the current operating license) of examinations for the circumferential shell welds of the BFN Units 2 and 3 reactor pressure vessels (RPV).

The BFN Unit 2 request for relief 2-ISI-9 was submitted by TVA letter dated March 24, 2000, and approved by NRC letter dated August 14, 2000. The BFN Unit 3 request for relief was submitted by TVA letters dated June 25, and October 22, 1999, and approved by NRC letter dated November 18, 1999.

The requests for relief have been updated to remove the RPV shell-to-flange weld (C-5-FLG) from the scope of the relief request. The C-5-FLG weld is classified as a ASME Section XI, Code Category B1.30 weld, but was erroneously listed in the requests for relief as a Code Category B1.11 weld. The bases of the two requests for relief employs the methodology found in the Boiling Water Reactor Vessel Integrity Program (BWRVIP-05) "BWR Reactor Pressure Vessel Shell Weld Inspection Recommendations," and Generic Letter 98-05, "Boiling Water Reactor Licensees Use of the BWRVIP-05 Report to Request Relief from Augmented Examination Requirements on Reactor Pressure Vessel Circumferential Shell Welds." The methodology in BWRVIP-05 and GL 98-05 only considers

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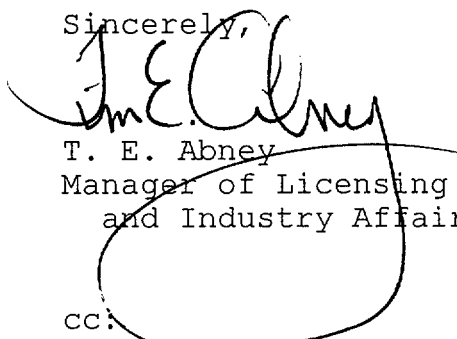
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ASME Section XI, Code Category B1.11 welds. Therefore, the BFN Units 2 and 3 RPV shell-to-flange (C-5-FLG) weld, Code Category B1.30, does not qualify for relief under the criteria specified in BWRVIP-05 and GL 98-05.

It should be noted that no scheduled inspections for the BFN Units 2 and 3 RPV shell-to-flange welds (C-5-FLG) have been missed as a result of this action.

In accordance with NRC RIS 2001-05, only one paper copy of this document is being sent to the NRC Document Control Desk. If you have any questions, please telephone me at (256) 729-2636.

Sincerely,



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Manager of Licensing  
and Industry Affairs

cc:

(Via NRC Electronic Distribution)

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