

November 5, 2001

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

SUBJECT: BROWNS FERRY, UNIT 3 - SAFETY EVALUATION REGARDING THE RELIEF REQUEST TO UPDATE THE INSERVICE INSPECTION PROGRAM RELATED TO WELDED ATTACHMENTS IN CODE CLASS 1, 2, AND 3 COMPONENTS TO THE 1995 EDITION, ASME CODE, SECTION XI, INCLUDING THE 1996 ADDENDA (TAC NO. MB2586)

Dear Mr. Scalice:

By letter dated August 17, 2001, the Tennessee Valley Authority proposed to update the inservice inspection (ISI) program related to welded attachments in all Code Class 1, 2, and 3 components from the applicable American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code, Section XI, 1989 Edition to that of the 1995 Edition including the 1996 Addenda for the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant (BFN), Unit 3.

As discussed in the enclosed safety evaluation, the staff has determined that the use of the 1995 Edition with 1996 Addenda of the ASME Code during the second and the third inspection periods of the second 10-year inspection interval of Unit 3 for the examination of welded attachments will provide an acceptable level of quality and safety until BFN Unit 3 fully adopts the newer edition of the ASME Code. Therefore, pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Section 50.55a(a)(3)(i), the proposed alternative is authorized for the remainder of the second 10-year ISI interval at BFN Unit 3.

This completes our efforts under TAC No. MB2586. If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact Allen Hansen, BFN Project Manager, at 301-415-1390.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Richard Correia, Chief, Section 2  
Project Directorate II  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-296

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

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SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION  
UPDATE REFERENCED ASME CODE EDITION AND ADDENDA  
TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY  
BROWNS FERRY, UNIT 3  
DOCKET NO. 50-296

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated August 17, 2001, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) proposed to update the inservice inspection (ISI) program related to welded attachments in all Code Class 1, 2, and 3 components from the applicable American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code, Section XI, 1989 Edition to that of the 1995 Edition including the 1996 Addenda for the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant (BFN), Unit 3.

## 2.0 EVALUATION

The TVA letter stated that, pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Section 50.55a(g)(4)(iv), TVA plans to update during the second and the third periods of the current second 10-year interval of BFN Unit 3, the inservice examination of the welded attachments to components in Code Class 1, 2, and 3 to the 1995 Edition, ASME Code, Section XI, including the 1996 Addenda. The letter further states that Browns Ferry Unit 2, currently in its third 10-year ISI interval, has already adopted the 1995 Edition, ASME Code, Section XI, including the 1996 Addenda for its inservice inspection program. Both units have implemented a risk-informed inservice inspection program.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission encourages licensees with identical units to adopt the same Code for their ISI programs even though both units may be in different inspection intervals, in order to reduce the administrative burden of implementing two different programs while not affecting the health and safety of the public. BFN Unit 2 has a program in place for inservice examination of welded attachments in the examination categories B-K, C-C, and D-A, which correspond to the ASME Code, Section XI, Class 1, 2, and 3 components, respectively. Unit 3 is in transition to adopt the 1995 Edition with 1996 Addenda of the ASME Code for its next ISI interval.

## 3.0 CONCLUSION

Since the portion of the ISI program related to welded attachments is independent of the balance of the ISI program, the staff has determined that the use of the 1995 Edition with 1996 Addenda of the ASME Code during the second and the third inspection periods of the second 10-year inspection interval of Unit 3 for the examination of welded attachments will provide an acceptable level of quality and safety until BFN Unit 3 fully adopts the newer edition of the ASME Code. Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i), the proposed alternative is authorized for the remainder of the second 10-year ISI interval at BFN Unit 3.

Principal Contributor: Prakash Patnaik, NRR

Date: November 5, 2001

Mr. J. A. Scalice  
Tennessee Valley Authority

**BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT**

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