

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

September 23, 1999

SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENTS - SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2, REGARDING USE OF SPARE INVERTERS (TAC NOS. MA6067 AND MA6068) (TS 99-06)

Dear Mr. Scalice:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 246 to Facility Operating License No. DPR-77 and Amendment No. 237 to Facility Operating License No. DPR-79 for the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant (SQN), Units 1 and 2, respectively. These amendments are in response to your application dated June 24, 1999, which requested approval to revise the Technical Specifications (TS) to allow use of a fully qualified and tested spare inverter in place of any of the eight required inverters. Your application stated that Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is installing eight new inverters and updating four of the current inverters to provide a spare inverter for each of the four channels of vital instrument power. This change adds a footnote to the requirements of TS 3.8.2.1 and 3.8.2.2 that describes the acceptability to utilize the spare inverters. The Commission has reviewed TVA's request and found it to be acceptable.

A copy of the Safety Evaluation is also enclosed. Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's next biweekly Federal Register notice.

Sincerely,
 Original signed by:
 Ronald W. Hernan, Sr. Project Manager, Section 2
 Project Directorate II
 Division of Licensing Project Management
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-327 and 50-328

- Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 246 to License No. DPR-77
 2. Amendment No. 237 to License No. DPR-79
 3. Safety Evaluation

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 23, 1999

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Chief Nuclear Officer and
Executive Vice President
Tennessee Valley Authority
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A copy of the Safety Evaluation is also enclosed. Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's next biweekly Federal Register notice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald W. Hernan".

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

Docket Nos. 50-327 and 50-328

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 246 to
License No. DPR-77
2. Amendment No. 237 to
License No. DPR-79
3. Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosures: See next page



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

DOCKET NO. 50-327

SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 1

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. **246**
License No. DPR-77

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment by Tennessee Valley Authority (the licensee) dated June 24, 1999, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;
 - C. There is reasonable assurance (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations;
 - D. The issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and
 - E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.

2. Accordingly, the license is amended by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment and paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility Operating License No. DPR-77 is hereby amended to read as follows:

(2) Technical Specifications

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendices A and B, as revised through Amendment No. 246 , are hereby incorporated in the license. The licensee shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications.

3. This license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance and shall be implemented within 45 days after issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Sheri R. Peterson, Chief, Section 2
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment: Changes to the Technical
Specifications

Date of Issuance: September 23, 1999

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 246

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-77

DOCKET NO. 50-327

Replace the following pages of Appendix A Technical Specifications with the attached pages. The revised pages are identified by amendment number and contain vertical lines indicating the area of change.

REMOVE

3/4 8-9
3/4 8-10

INSERT

3/4 8-9
3/4 8-10

ELECTRICAL POWER SYSTEMS

3/4.8.2 ONSITE POWER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS

A.C. DISTRIBUTION - OPERATING

LIMITING CONDITION FOR OPERATION

3.8.2.1 The following A.C. electrical boards shall be OPERABLE and energized with tie breakers open between redundant boards:

6900 Volt Shutdown Board 1A-A
6900 Volt Shutdown Board 1B-B
6900 Volt Shutdown Board 2A-A
6900 Volt Shutdown Board 2B-B
480 Volt Shutdown Board 1A1-A
480 Volt Shutdown Board 1A2-A
480 Volt Shutdown Board 1B1-B
480 Volt Shutdown Board 1B2-B
480 Volt Shutdown Board 2A1-A
480 Volt Shutdown Board 2A2-A
480 Volt Shutdown Board 2B1-B
480 Volt Shutdown Board 2B2-B
120 Volt A.C. Vital Instrument Power Board Channels 1-I and 2-I energized from inverters 1-I and 2-I connected to D.C. Channel I*#@.
120 Volt A.C. Vital Instrument Power Board Channels 1-II and 2-II energized from inverters 1-II and 2-II connected to D.C. Channel II*#@.
120 Volt A.C. Vital Instrument Power Board Channels 1-III and 2-III energized from inverters 1-III and 2-III connected to D.C. Channel III*#@.
120 Volt A.C. Vital Instrument Power Board Channels 1-IV and 2-IV energized from inverters 1-IV and 2-IV connected to D.C. Channel IV*#@.

APPLICABILITY: MODES 1, 2, 3 and 4.

ACTION:

- a. With less than the above complement of A.C. boards OPERABLE and energized, restore the inoperable boards to OPERABLE status within 8 hours or be in at least HOT STANDBY within the next 6 hours and in COLD SHUTDOWN within the following 30 hours.
- b. With one inverter inoperable, energize the associated Vital Instrument Power Board within 8 hours; restore the inoperable inverter to OPERABLE status within 24 hours or be in at least HOT STANDBY within the next 6 hours and in COLD SHUTDOWN within the following 30 hours.

SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS

4.8.2.1 The specified A.C. boards and inverters shall be determined OPERABLE and energized with tie breakers open between redundant boards at least once per 7 days by verifying correct breaker alignment and indicated voltage on the busses.

* Two inverters may be disconnected from their D.C. source for up to 24 hours for the purpose of performing an equalizing charge on their associated battery bank provided (1) the vital instrument power board is OPERABLE and energized, and (2) the vital instrument power boards associated with the other battery banks are OPERABLE and energized from their respective inverters connected to their respective D.C. source.

D.C. Channel V may be substituted for any one channel of channels I-IV.

@ The spare inverter for a specified channel may be substituted for one of the two inverters of the same channel.

ELECTRICAL POWER SYSTEMS

A.C. DISTRIBUTION - SHUTDOWN

LIMITING CONDITION FOR OPERATION

3.8.2.2 As a minimum, the following A.C. electrical boards and inverters shall be OPERABLE and energized:

- 2 - 6900 volt shutdown boards, either 1A-A and 2A-A or 1B-B and 2B-B,
- 4 - 480 volt shutdown boards associated with the required OPERABLE 6900 volt shutdown boards,
- 2 - 120 volt A.C. vital instrument power boards either Channels I and III or Channels II and IV energized from their respective inverters# connected to their respective D.C. battery banks*, and 480 volt shutdown boards.

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APPLICABILITY: MODES 5 and 6.

ACTION:

With less than the above complement of A.C. boards and inverters OPERABLE and energized, establish CONTAINMENT INTEGRITY within 8 hours.

SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS

4.8.2.2 The specified A.C. boards and inverters shall be determined OPERABLE and energized at least once per 7 days by verifying correct breaker alignment and indicated voltage on the bus.

* Any one of the inverters may be connected to D.C. Battery Bank V.

|R41

The spare inverter for a specified channel may be substituted for one of the two inverters of the same channel.

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

DOCKET NO. 50-328

SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 2

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 237
License No. DPR-79

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment by Tennessee Valley Authority (the licensee) dated June 24, 1999, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;
 - C. There is reasonable assurance (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations;
 - D. The issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and
 - E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.

2. Accordingly, the license is amended by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment and paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility Operating License No. DPR-79 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- (2) Technical Specifications

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendices A and B, as revised through Amendment No. 237, are hereby incorporated in the license. The licensee shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications.

3. This license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance and shall be implemented within 45 days of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Sheri R. Peterson, Chief, Section 2
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment: Changes to the Technical
Specifications

Date of Issuance: September 23, 1999

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 237

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-79

DOCKET NO. 50-328

Replace the following pages of Appendix A Technical Specifications with the attached pages. The revised pages are identified by amendment number and contain vertical lines indicating the area of change.

REMOVE

3/4 8-10

3/4 8-11

INSERT

3/4 8-10

3/4 8-11

ELECTRICAL POWER SYSTEMS

3/4.8.2 ONSITE POWER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS

A.C. DISTRIBUTION - OPERATING

LIMITING CONDITION FOR OPERATION

3.8.2.1 The following A.C. electrical boards and inverters shall be OPERABLE and energized with tie breakers open between redundant boards:

6900	Volt Shutdown Board	1A-A
6900	Volt Shutdown Board	1B-B
6900	Volt Shutdown Board	2A-A
6900	Volt Shutdown Board	2B-B
480	Volt Shutdown Board	1A1-A
480	Volt Shutdown Board	1A2-A
480	Volt Shutdown Board	1B1-B
480	Volt Shutdown Board	1B2-B
480	Volt Shutdown Board	2A1-A
480	Volt Shutdown Board	2A2-A
480	Volt Shutdown Board	2B1-B
480	Volt Shutdown Board	2B2-B
120	Volt A.C. Vital Instrument Power Board Channels 1-I and 2-I energized from inverters 1-I and 2-I connected to D.C. Channel I*#@.	
120	Volt A.C. Vital Instrument Power Board Channels 1-II and 2-II energized from inverter 1-II and 2-II connected to D.C. Channel II*#@.	
120	Volt A.C. Vital Instrument Power Board Channels 1-III and 2-III energized from inverter 1-III and 2-III connected to D.C. Channel III*#@.	
120	Volt A.C. Vital Instrument Power Board Channels 1-IV and 2-IV energized from inverter 1-IV and 2-IV connected to D.C. Channel IV*#@.	

APPLICABILITY: MODES 1, 2, 3 and 4.

ACTION:

- a. With less than the above complement of A.C. boards OPERABLE and energized, restore the inoperable boards to OPERABLE status within 8 hours or be in at least HOT STANDBY within the next 6 hours and in COLD SHUTDOWN within the following 30 hours.
- b. With one inverter inoperable, energize the associated Vital Instrument Power Board within 8 hours; restore the inoperable inverter to OPERABLE status within 24 hours or be in at least HOT STANDBY within the next 6 hours and in COLD SHUTDOWN within the following 30 hours.

SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS

4.8.2.1 The specified A.C. boards and inverters shall be determined OPERABLE and energized with tie breakers open between redundant boards at least once per 7 days by verifying correct breaker alignment and indicated voltage on the busses.

* Two inverters may be disconnected from their D.C. source for up to 24 hours for the purpose of performing an equalizing charge on their associated battery bank provide (1) the vital instrument power board is OPERABLE and energized, and (2) the vital instrument power boards associated with the other battery banks are OPERABLE and energized from their respective inverters connected to their respective D.C. source.

D.C. Channel V may be substituted for any one channel of channels I - IV.

@ The spare inverter for a specified channel may be substituted for one of the two inverters of the same channel.

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ELECTRICAL POWER SYSTEMS

A.C. DISTRIBUTION - SHUTDOWN

LIMITING CONDITION FOR OPERATION

3.8.2.2 As a minimum, the following A.C. electrical boards and inverters shall be OPERABLE and energized:

- 2 - 6900 volt shutdown boards, either 1A-A and 2A-A or 1B-B and 2B-B,
- 4 - 480 volt shutdown boards associated with the required OPERABLE 6900 volt shutdown boards,
- 2 - 120 volt A.C. vital instrument power boards either Channels I and III or Channels II and IV energized from their respective inverters# connected to their respective D.C. battery banks,* and 480 volt shutdown boards.

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APPLICABILITY: MODES 5 and 6.

ACTION:

With less than the above complement of A.C. boards and inverters OPERABLE and energized, establish CONTAINMENT INTEGRITY within 8 hours.

SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS

4.8.2.2 The specified A.C. boards and inverters shall be determined OPERABLE and energized at least once per 7 days by verifying correct breaker alignment and indicated voltage on the bus.

* Any one of the inverters may be connected to D.C. Battery Bank V.

|R29

The spare inverter for a specified channel may be substituted for one of the two inverters of the same channel.



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 246 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-77
AND AMENDMENT NO. 237 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-79

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

DOCKET NOS. 50-327 AND 50-328

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By application dated June 24, 1999, to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA, the licensee) proposed an amendment to the Technical Specifications (TS) for Sequoyah Nuclear Plant (SQN) Units 1 and 2. The requested changes would revise the TS to allow use of a fully qualified and tested spare inverter in place of any of the eight required inverters. Specifically, TVA proposed the addition of a new footnote to TS 3.8.2.1 and TS 3.8.2.2. Consistent with a plant design change, the footnote would allow the substitution of the spare inverter of a specified channel as a replacement of one of the two required inverters of the same channel. The footnote applies to the limiting condition for operation associated with the 120-volt alternating current (VAC) vital instrument power board channels and the associated inverter requirements. The proposed package also contains typographical corrections for the existing footnote for TS 3.8.2.1.

2.0 EVALUATION

TVA proposed the above described changes to incorporate a design change that would provide a spare inverter for each of the four channels of 120-VAC vital instrument power board channels. The design change would upgrade the eight required inverters with new inverters that would have additional capabilities and improved reliability. In addition, TVA would utilize four of the presently installed inverters, after installing updated features, as spares for each of the required channels. The system would be designed such that each spare inverter could be aligned to provide the power requirements for one of the two associated 120-VAC vital instrument power board channels. This plant modification was undertaken to rectify inverter operational problems that have occurred in the past. The new footnote in the TS would allow TVA to utilize the spare inverters for maintenance or testing activities without having to rely on the TS action statement provisions (that could require dual plant shutdown) and would provide improved safety function availability and, therefore, improved plant reliability.

The SQN vital alternating current (ac) and direct current (dc) control and instrument power systems consist of four 125-volt batteries, four battery chargers and eight 120-VAC inverters with their respective safety-related loads. TVA is adding four spare inverters that have the equivalent features and capability. The spare inverters would be designed to allow for manual replacement of one of the two inverters in the same channel. The 125-volt dc distribution system is a safety-related system, which receives power from four independent battery

chargers and four 125-volt batteries and distributes it to safety-related loads of both units. The 120-VAC distribution system receives ac power from eight independent inverters and distributes it to the safety-related loads of both units. The inverters provide a source of 120-volts, 60-Hertz (Hz) power for the operation of the nuclear steam supply system instrumentation. This power is derived from the 480-VAC, 3-phase, 60-Hz distribution system (the preferred power supply), or the station batteries, which assure continued operation of the ac instrumentation systems in the event of a station blackout.

The 120-VAC vital instrument system incorporates features which serve to increase the overall reliability of the plant. Each channel has access to three power sources; a 480-VAC source, a 125-volt dc source, and a 120-VAC maintenance source. TVA is providing a new maintenance source that utilizes a regulated transformer and obtains the power source from the 480-VAC shutdown boards. This source would provide a more stable and consistent voltage level for the 120-VAC vital instrument power boards when on the maintenance source. Each inverter has an auctioneered solid-state transfer switch between the 480-VAC and 125-volt dc sources. Transfer switches between the output of the inverter and the 120-VAC maintenance supply would be modified to utilize static switches that would transfer loads automatically for a loss of inverter output. The new design would continue to provide manual transfer capability so that the inverter may be taken out of service for maintenance without interrupting power to the loads. The current limiting feature of the inverter provides self-protection from load faults. The inverter and instrumentation power board are monitored to alert the operator of abnormalities. The eight inverters are located in the Auxiliary Building at Elevation 749. Channels I and II inverters are located in the Unit 1 area and Channels III and IV inverters are located in the Unit 2 area. Channels I and II inverters are separated from Channels III and IV inverters by a reinforced concrete block wall, extending to the ceiling. Channel I and the Channel III inverters are separated from Channel II and Channel IV inverters, respectively, by a distance of about 60 feet. The spare inverters would be located with the required inverters of the same channel.

The normal supply of ac power to the distribution panels is from the corresponding inverter in each channel. Each inverter consists of three major subassemblies: a dc power supply, an auctioneering circuit, and an inverter circuit. The dc power supply converts the 480-VAC normal inverter input to direct current. The auctioneering circuit accepts the dc power supply (normal supply) and battery (emergency supply) inputs and permits a switchless bidirectional transfer between them in the event of 480-VAC supply failure and restoration. The dc output of the auctioneering circuit is converted to ac by the inverting circuit.

The modified system would meet or exceed these system features and capabilities. The addition of a regulated maintenance source and the automatic static switch provides additional capability to provide reliable power to the vital instruments boards and minimize the potential for a unit trip. The regulated maintenance source would be a more reliable supply to the board with better voltage control to support safety-related instrumentation operation during maintenance or inverter failure. The ability to utilize spare inverters with the equivalent capabilities would allow better opportunities to properly maintain the inverters and minimize the potential to require unit shutdown for an inverter problem.

The new design that includes a spare inverter would provide the ability to remove the normal inverters for maintenance without the limitations of TS actions or the potential to require unit shutdown. The proposed TS changes support the use of a spare inverter that has the ability to

automatically switch to a regulated maintenance power supply. This ability would improve unit operation and reliability when the spare is in service by providing a reliable source of power to the 120-VAC vital instrument power boards in the event of inverter failure. When the normal inverter is replaced by the spare all required safety functions would be retained without a reduction in reliable power to the instrument boards. Therefore, the implementation of the proposed TS change to allow the use of a spare inverter would provide enhanced maintenance opportunities while providing an improved source of power to maintain required safety functions.

The NRC staff has reviewed the subject amendment application against the guidance contained in NUREG-0800, "Standard Review Plan," Sections 8.3.1 (onsite ac power systems) and 8.3.2 (onsite dc power systems). The staff finds that the required General Design Criteria (GDC) of Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR), Part 50, including GDC-17 (electric power systems), would continue to be met with implementation of the proposed changes to the SQN TS. The staff, therefore, finds the proposed changes to be acceptable.

3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the Tennessee State official was notified of the proposed issuance of the amendment. The State official had no comments.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendment changes a requirement with respect to installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. The NRC staff has determined that the amendment involves no significant increase in the amounts, and no significant change in the types, of any effluents that may be released offsite, and that there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. The Commission has previously issued a proposed finding that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration (64 FR 41973), and there has been no public comment on such finding. Accordingly, the amendment meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b) no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of the amendment.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The Commission has concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that: (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public would not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, (2) such activities would be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and (3) the issuance of the amendment would not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Principal Contributor: Ronald W. Hernan, NRR

Dated: September 23, 1999

Mr. J. A. Scalice
Tennessee Valley Authority

SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR PLANT

cc:

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