

Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, Jr.
 President, TVA Nuclear and
 Chief Nuclear Officer
 Tennessee Valley Authority
 6A Lookout Place
 1101 Market Street
 Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

June 26, 1997

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENTS TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSES, PROPOSED NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS CONSIDERATION, AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING - SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. M96996 AND M96997)

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

Enclosed is a copy of the subject notice for your information. This notice relates to your application dated September 26, 1996, to amend the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 Technical Specifications (TS) to remove the fire protection license condition for each unit and relocate various fire protection details from the TS to the Sequoyah Fire Protection Report, which is referenced in the Sequoyah Final Safety Analysis Report. Guidelines for relocation of fire protection details were provided in NRC Generic Letter (GL) 88-12, dated August 2, 1988. The amendments would remove fire protection requirements from the TS in four major areas: (1) fire detection systems, (2) fire suppression systems, (3) fire barriers, and (4) fire brigade staffing requirements.

This notice has been sent to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Ronald W. Hernan, Senior Project Manager
 Project Directorate II-3
 Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

DFK
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Docket Nos. 50-327 and 50-328

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/enclosure: See next page

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Tennessee Valley Authority

cc:

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Soddy Daisy, TN 37379

Mr. Michael H. Mobley, Director
Division of Radiological Health
3rd Floor, L and C Annex
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Nashville, TN 37243-1532

County Executive
Hamilton County Courthouse
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

DOCKET NOS. 50-327 AND 50-328

NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT TO
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE, PROPOSED NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS
CONSIDERATION DETERMINATION, AND OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-77 and DPR-79 issued to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA, the licensee) for operation of the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 located in Hamilton County, Tennessee. This action is being considered in response to a TVA amendment request dated September 26, 1996.

The proposed amendments would remove the fire protection license condition for each unit and relocate various fire protection details from the Sequoyah Technical Specifications (TSs) to the Sequoyah Fire Protection Report, which is referenced in the Sequoyah Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR). Guidelines for relocation of fire protection details were provided in NRC Generic Letter (GL) 88-12, dated August 2, 1988. The amendments would remove fire protection requirements from the TSs in four major areas: (1) fire detection systems, (2) fire suppression systems, (3) fire barriers, and (4) fire brigade staffing requirements.

Before issuance of the proposed license amendment, the Commission will have made findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act) and the Commission's regulations.

The Commission has made a proposed determination that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration. Under the Commission's regulations, in 10 CFR 50.92, this means that operation of the facility in

accordance with the proposed amendment would not (1) involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated; or (2) create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated; or (3) involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety. As required by 10 CFR 50.91(a), the licensee has provided its analysis of the issue of no significant hazards consideration, which is presented below:

Operation of Sequoyah Nuclear Plant (SQN) in accordance with the proposed amendment will not:

1. Involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

The proposed TS change implements the guidance of NRC Generic Letter 86-10, "Implementation of Fire Protection Requirements," and GL 88-12, "Removal of Fire Protection Requirements from the Technical Specifications." TVA's proposed change is administrative in nature since no technical requirements are being changed. The current technical specifications associated with fire protection are removed and are relocated to the SQN FSAR. In addition, implementation of the proposed standard fire protection license condition provides assurance that any future changes to the SQN Fire Protection Program would not adversely affect the ability to achieve and maintain safe shutdown in the event of a fire. Since the technical content of the Fire Protection requirements have not changed, this amendment does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

2. Create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any previously analyzed.

The proposed changes to the fire protection requirements in this proposed amendment are administrative in nature. Technical requirements associated with SQN's Fire Protection Systems have not been altered. Accordingly, the amendment does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any previously analyzed.

3. Involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety.

The technical requirements for fire protection are relocated from the TSs to the FSAR by reference to the Fire Protection Report for Sequoyah Nuclear Plant. This report was submitted to NRC by letter dated August 30, 1996. The

report contains the technical requirements for SQN's Fire Protection Program. Under TVA's proposed TS change, the operational conditions, testing and remedial action requirements, that are removed from TSs and relocated to the Fire Protection Report remain unchanged. The existing plant procedures will continue to provide the specific instructions for implementing these technical requirements. Since technical requirements are not changed, the proposed change does not involve a reduction in the margin of safety.

The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's analysis and, based on this review, it appears that the three standards of 10 CFR 50.92(c) are satisfied. Therefore, the NRC staff proposes to determine that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration.

The Commission is seeking public comments on this proposed determination. Any comments received within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice will be considered in making any final determination.

Normally, the Commission will not issue the amendment until the expiration of the 30-day notice period. However, should circumstances change during the notice period such that failure to act in a timely way would result, for example, in derating or shutdown of the facility, the Commission may issue the license amendment before the expiration of the 30-day notice period, provided that its final determination is that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will consider all public and State comments received. Should the Commission take this action, it will publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER a notice of issuance and provide for opportunity for a hearing after issuance. The Commission expects that the need to take this action will occur very infrequently.

Written comments may be submitted by mail to the Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch, Division of Freedom of Information and Publications

Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and should cite the publication date and page number of this FEDERAL REGISTER notice. Written comments may also be delivered to Room 6D22, Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Federal workdays. Copies of written comments received may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC.

The filing of requests for hearing and petitions for leave to intervene is discussed below.

By July 2, 1997, the licensee may file a request for a hearing with respect to issuance of the amendment to the subject facility operating license and any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding and who wishes to participate as a party in the proceeding must file a written request for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene. Requests for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene shall be filed in accordance with the Commission's "Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings" in 10 CFR Part 2. Interested persons should consult a current copy of 10 CFR 2.714 which is available at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Library, 1101 Broad Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402.

If a request for a hearing or petition for leave to intervene is filed by the above date, the Commission or an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, designated by the Commission or by the Chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, will rule on the request and/or petition; and the Secretary or the designated Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will issue a notice of hearing or an appropriate order.

As required by 10 CFR 2.714, a petition for leave to intervene shall set forth with particularity the interest of the petitioner in the proceeding, and how that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding. The petition should specifically explain the reasons why intervention should be permitted with particular reference to the following factors: (1) the nature of the petitioner's right under the Act to be made party to the proceeding; (2) the nature and extent of the petitioner's property, financial, or other interest in the proceeding; and (3) the possible effect of any order which may be entered in the proceeding on the petitioner's interest. The petition should also identify the specific aspect(s) of the subject matter of the proceeding as to which petitioner wishes to intervene. Any person who has filed a petition for leave to intervene or who has been admitted as a party may amend the petition without requesting leave of the Board up to 15 days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, but such an amended petition must satisfy the specificity requirements described above.

Not later than 15 days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, a petitioner shall file a supplement to the petition to intervene which must include a list of the contentions which are sought to be litigated in the matter. Each contention must consist of a specific statement of the issue of law or fact to be raised or controverted. In addition, the petitioner shall provide a brief explanation of the bases of the contention and a concise statement of the alleged facts or expert opinion which support the contention and on which the petitioner intends to rely in proving the contention at the hearing. The petitioner must also provide references to those specific sources and documents of which the petitioner is aware and on which the petitioner intends to rely to establish those facts or expert opinion. Petitioner must provide sufficient information to show that a

genuine dispute exists with the applicant on a material issue of law or fact. Contentions shall be limited to matters within the scope of the amendment under consideration. The contention must be one which, if proven, would entitle the petitioner to relief. A petitioner who fails to file such a supplement which satisfies these requirements with respect to at least one contention will not be permitted to participate as a party.

Those permitted to intervene become parties to the proceeding, subject to any limitations in the order granting leave to intervene, and have the opportunity to participate fully in the conduct of the hearing, including the opportunity to present evidence and cross-examine witnesses. If a hearing is requested, the Commission will make a final determination on the issue of no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will serve to decide when the hearing is held.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration, the Commission may issue the amendment and make it immediately effective, notwithstanding the request for a hearing. Any hearing held would take place after issuance of the amendment.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves a significant hazards consideration, any hearing held would take place before the issuance of any amendment.

A request for a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, by the above date. A copy of the petition should also be sent to the Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and to

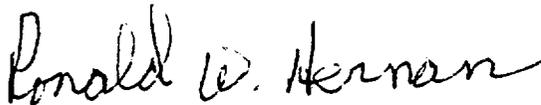
the General Counsel, Tennessee Valley Authority, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, ET 10H, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902, attorney for the licensee.

Nontimely filings of petitions for leave to intervene, amended petitions, supplemental petitions and/or requests for hearing will not be entertained absent a determination by the Commission, the presiding officer or the presiding Atomic Safety and Licensing Board that the petition and/or request should be granted based upon a balancing of the factors specified in 10 CFR 2.714(a)(1)(i)-(v) and 2.714(d).

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated September 26, 1996, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Library, 1001 Broad Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 26th day of June 1997.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Ronald W. Hernan, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate II-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation