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# UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

*50-259*

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## NRC LIFTS RESTRICTIONS ON FULL POWER OPERATION OF BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT UNIT 3 IN ALABAMA

An amendment to Tennessee Valley Authority's operating license for Unit 3 of the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant near Decatur, Alabama, permitting full power operation was issued on August 18 by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. The amendment lifted temporary restrictions in the full power license issued in July.

The restrictions limiting activities to fuel loading were to remain in effect until the following matters were resolved: (1) approval by the NRC staff of certain matters relating to fire prevention and protection; and (2) the results of reviews currently in progress on (a) suppression pool hydrodynamic loads during a postulated loss-of-coolant accident, (b) dynamic loads associated with relief valve operation and (c) modified residual heat removal pump performance during a postulated loss-of-coolant accident.

Low power testing at one percent of power was permitted earlier in August when the above matters, except the fire protection program, were resolved. The current amendment permitting full power operation followed a report by the NRC Office of Inspection and Enforcement of satisfactory completion and resolution of the detailed fire protection procedures and the fire training program.

The three-unit Browns Ferry station is located at Wheeler Lake in Limestone County. Each of the units uses a boiling water reactor and has an electrical generating capacity of about 1065 megawatts.

Units 1 and 2 have not yet resumed full operation since the fire although TVA has been authorized to load fuel and test them. Full operation must await the decision of the Licensing Board which recently conducted a hearing on resumption of operation.

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