

September 11, 1989

Docket Nos. 50-259, 50-260  
and 50-296

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Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, Jr.  
Senior Vice President, Nuclear Power  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
6N 38A Lookout Place  
1101 Market Street  
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
(TAC NOS. 72198, 72199 AND 72200) - BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT,  
UNITS 1, 2 AND 3

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. This assessment relates to your application dated February 14, 1989 and supplemented by your letter dated July 14, 1989 for amendments to change sections of the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant Technical Specifications to reflect the current status of the Control Room Emergency Ventilation System (CREVS). The proposed amendments would permit operation of Unit 2 for one cycle before all necessary modifications to CREVS are completed.

This assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Suzanne C. Black, Assistant Director  
for Projects  
TVA Projects Division  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:  
Environmental Assessment and  
Finding of No Significant  
Impact

cc w/enclosure:  
See next page

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\*SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCE

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Suzanne C. Black, Assistant Director  
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:  
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Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, Jr.

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONTENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITYDOCKET NOS. 50-259, 50-260 AND 50-296ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC/the Commission) is considering issuance of temporary amendments to Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-33, DPR-52 and DPR-68 to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA/the licensee), for the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Units 1, 2 and 3, located at the licensee's site near Decatur, Alabama.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The proposed temporary amendments would revise the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant Technical Specifications (TS) to permit operation of Unit 2 for one cycle before all necessary design modifications to the Control Room Emergency Ventilation System (CREVS) are completed.

The proposed temporary amendments are in accordance with the licensee's application for temporary amendments dated February 14, 1989, as supplemented by letter dated July 14, 1989.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed changes address a design flaw in the CREVS identified by the licensee. Under the licensee's bounding accident event, the CREVS is postulated to not be able to provide filtered air to control room and emergency personnel. The proposed changes would state that the CREVS is considered to be inoperable because it does not meet its design basis for essentially zero

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unfiltered in-leakage. The requested changes would permit, with NRC approval, the operation for Unit 2 for one cycle, without all modifications completed to meet the bounding accident event identified by the licensee.

Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed revisions to the Technical Specifications. The staff concludes that the safety consideration associated with operation of Unit 2 before all necessary design modifications to CREVS have been completed would not adversely affect plant safety. The proposed changes have no adverse effect on the probability or consequences of any accident previously analyzed. No changes are being made in the types or amounts of any radiological effluents that may be released offsite. There is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that this proposed action would result in no significant environmental impact.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed amendment involves systems within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed amendment.

The Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment and Opportunity for Hearing in connection with this action was published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on April 18, 1989 (54 FR 15572). The licensee's letter of July 14, 1989 provided clarification that the projected radiation doses to control room operators and Technical Support Center personnel were within the acceptable limit as defined

in 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix A, General Design Criteria 19. No requests for hearing were received and the State of Alabama did not have any comments.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded that there are no significant environmental impacts that would result from the proposed action, any alternatives with equal to or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested temporary amendments. This would not reduce the environmental impacts and would result in a delay in the Unit 2 restart.

Alternative Use of Resources

These actions associated with the granting of the proposed temporary amendments as detailed above do not involve the use of resources not previously considered in connection with the Final Environmental Statement (FES) (construction permit and operating license) for the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Units 1, 2 and 3, dated September 1, 1972.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's submittal that supports the proposed temporary amendments discussed above and did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed temporary amendments.

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the request for the temporary amendment changes dated February 14, 1989, as supplemented by letter dated July 14, 1989, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the NRC's Local Public Document Room located at the Athens Public Library, South Street, Athens, Alabama 35611.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 11th day of September 1989.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Suzanne C. Black".

Suzanne C. Black, Assistant Director  
for Projects TVA Projects Division Office  
of Nuclear Reactor Regulation