

REGULATORY DOCKET FILE COPY

OCTOBER 3 1979

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

Mr. Hugh G. Parris
Manager of Power
Tennessee Valley Authority
500 A Chestnut Street, Tower II
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37401

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Dear Mr Parris:

Reference is made to your letter of July 31, 1979 and to subsequent discussions with your staff regarding low pressure coolant injection (LPCI) power supply modifications for the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant (BFNP). The power supply modifications which you proposed in your letter of December 28, 1977 were approved by my letter of May 11, 1979. My letter noted that you committed to complete the modifications on Browns Ferry Unit No. 3 by the end of the current refueling outage and that associated changes to the Technical Specifications would be submitted with the reload amendment requests (which for Unit No. 3, was submitted on August 6, 1979). In your letter of July 31, 1979, you advised us that motor-generator (MG) sets for the power supply modifications will not be received by you in time to complete the modifications on Units Nos. 1 and 3 this fall because of a strike at the material fabricator's plant. You proposed to complete all of the LPCI power supply modifications on Units Nos. 1 and 3 except for installation of the MG sets and to install the MG sets during the fall 1980 refueling outages for these two Units.

On August 17, 1978, we met with your staff at your request, to discuss the technical, design, contractual and schedular problems you were encountering in obtaining MG sets in accordance with your original design specifications of December 28, 1977. During the meeting, we identified certain MG set criteria that could be modified or eliminated and maintain the necessary LPCI system performance requirements. In your letter of December 13, 1978, you provided the revised design characteristics and expected operating performance of the MG sets.

With the LPCI power supply modification installed in Units Nos. 1 and 3 this fall, but without the MG sets, there would be a period of time when the plant would neither be as described in the FSAR or as approved by my letter of May 11, 1979. We have reviewed the design of the power supplies without the MG sets and find it acceptable. However, you are requested to document in writing some of the information discussed with your staff - specifically:

1. That when Unit No. 3 starts up from the current refueling, the LPCI power supply except for the MG sets will be as shown in Figure 20 entitled, "Modified System Valve Power to Hydraulic Pump With Spring Bus Eliminated" in the document, "Emergency Core Cooling Systems, Low Pressure Coolant Injection, Modifications for Performance Improvement," dated May 1977.

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Mr. Hugh G. Parris

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2. The number of days required to install the MG sets once they are received.
3. That if there is an outage of sufficient duration after the MG sets are received, the MG sets will be installed at that time rather than waiting for the fall 1980 refueling outage.
4. The date the purchase order was issued for the MG sets, a) originally and b) as described in your December 13, 1978 letter.
5. The dates the modified MG sets for Units Nos. 1, 2 and 3 were expected to be delivered onsite and the dates the sets are now scheduled to be delivered for each Unit. Discuss how much of the delay is attributable to the strike at the material fabricator's plant and how much to other causes.
6. That design and operation of Units Nos. 1 and 3 with the LPCI power supply modification installed, but minus the MG sets, has been reviewed by the Plant Operations Review Committee and the Nuclear Safety Review Board and that acceptable procedures have been prepared (and the plant operating crew trained with the revised procedures) to cover safe operation of Units Nos. 1 and 3 during the temporary period until the MG sets are installed.

With the LPCI power supply modifications installed, the existing ECCS analysis will no longer be valid. Your letter of August 6, 1979 transmitting the reload analyses for Unit No. 3 stated that, "the LOCA analysis will be submitted to you in the near future". As we have discussed with your staff, the personnel who review ECCS analyses are presently committed for most of their time to follow-up studies as the result of the TMI-2 incident. Since we have not received the revised ECCS analyses, it is questionable whether there is sufficient time remaining prior to the projected startup date for Unit No. 3 for us to complete our review - particularly if it is necessary to prenotice the prospective amendment request.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by
T. A. Ippolito

Thomas A. Ippolito, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #3
Division of Operating Reactors

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