

September 23, 1993

Docket No. 50-260

Dr. Mark O. Medford, Vice President
Tennessee Valley Authority
Technical Support
3B Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

Dear Dr. Medford:

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT TO FACILITY
OPERATING LICENSE, PROPOSED NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS CONSIDERATION
DETERMINATION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING - BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR
PLANT, UNIT 2 (TAC NO. 187734)

Enclosed is the subject notice for your information. This notice relates to your application dated September 15, 1993, for a change to the technical specifications for the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Unit 2. The proposed change would revise Technical Specification Table 3.2.B to allow specific reactor vessel level instrumentation to be taken out of service in order to perform the reactor vessel water level instrumentation modifications requested by NRC Bulletin 93-03.

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

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Frederick J. Hebdon, Director
Project Directorate II-4
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Federal Register Notice

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

OFFICE:	PDII-4/LA	PDII-4/PM	PDII-4/PM	PDII-4/PM	PDII-4/D
NAME:	BClayton	DTrimble	TRoss	JWilliams	FHebdon
DATE:	9/23/93	9/23/93	9/23/93	9/23/93	9/23/93

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\bfn\indnot.ltr

NRC FILE CENTER COPY

9310010118 930723
PDR ADOCK 05000260
P PDR

Tennessee Valley Authority
ATTN: Dr. Mark O. Medford

cc:

Mr. W. H. Kennoy, Director
Tennessee Valley Authority
ET 12A
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

Mr. R. M. Eytchison, Vice President
Nuclear Operations
Tennessee Valley Authority
3B Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

Site Licensing Manager
Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant
Tennessee Valley Authority
P.O. Box 2000
Decatur, Alabama 35609-2000

Mr. O. J. Zeringue, Vice President
Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant
Tennessee Valley Authority
P.O. Box 2000
Decatur, Alabama 35609-2000

Mr. B. S. Schofield, Manager
Nuclear Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
Tennessee Valley Authority
5B Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

TVA Representative
Tennessee Valley Authority
11921 Rockville Pike
Suite 402
Rockville, Maryland 20852

General Counsel
Tennessee Valley Authority
ET 11H
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

Chairman, Limestone County Commission
P.O. Box 188
Athens, Alabama 35611

Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant

State Health Officer
Alabama Dept. of Public Health
434 Monroe Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1701

Regional Administrator
U.S.N.R.C. Region II
101 Marietta Street, N.W.
Suite 2900
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

Mr. Charles Patterson
Senior Resident Inspector
Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant
U.S.N.R.C.
Route 12, Box 637
Athens, Alabama 35611

Manager, Nuclear Assurance
and Licensing
Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant
Tennessee Valley Authority
P. O. Box 2000
Decatur, Alabama 35609-2000

Distribution

Docket File
NRC & Local PDRs
BFN Reading
S. Varga
G. Lainas
F. Hebdon
T. Ross
J. Williams
D. Trimble
B. Clayton
OGC
D. Hagan
ACRS (10)
OPA
OC/LFDCB
E. Merschhoff, RII
P. Kellogg, RII
R. Crlenjak, RII

280005

DF01
u

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

DOCKET NO. 50-260

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 No. DPR-52, issued to the Tennessee Valley Authority (the licensee) for operation of the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Unit 2, located in Limestone County, Alabama.

The proposed amendment would revise Technical Specification Table 3.2.B to allow specific reactor vessel level instrumentation to be taken out of service in order to perform the reactor vessel water level instrumentation modifications requested by NRC Bulletin 93-03.

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

9310010124 930923
PDR ADDCK 05000260
P PDR

has provided its analysis of the issue of no significant hazards consideration, which is presented below:

1. The proposed amendment does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

The temporary change to the number of reactor vessel water level instrumentation trip systems required to be operable does not increase the frequency of the precursors to design basis events or operational transients analyzed in the Browns Ferry Final Safety Analysis Report. Therefore, the probability of an accident previously evaluated is not significantly increased.

While in cold shutdown condition and the reactor vessel is at atmospheric pressure, the worst case accident is considered to be an inadvertent drain down of the reactor vessel due to a break in shutdown cooling piping, a leak in the reactor coolant pressure boundary due to maintenance or valve mispositioning, or a recirculation pump seal failure. The other reference leg and its associated reactor vessel water level instrumentation will remain in service and be capable of initiating the required safety functions. In addition, several other reactor vessel water level instruments will remain in service and will provide the operators with reactor vessel water level indication in case of a single failure in the remaining reference leg. Based on input from this instrumentation, the operators would manually initiate the required safety functions, as appropriate. Therefore, the proposed changes will not significantly increase the consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

2. The proposed amendment does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from an accident previously evaluated.

The temporary change to the number of reactor vessel water level trip systems required to be operable does not create a new pathway for radioactive material to reach the environment. The out of service instruments are used to indicate plant parameters and to initiate systems required to mitigate accidents or plant transients. The remaining instrumentation will still be available to automatically initiate the required function. The operators will receive special briefings to ensure that they are fully cognizant of the instruments which will be out of service and the degraded automatic response capability of the plant. The operators will be (sic) have sufficient time to manually initiate the required functions if a single failure occurs in the remaining instrumentation. Therefore, the proposed amendment does not

create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated.

3. The proposed amendment does not involve a significant reduction in the margin of safety.

The proposed temporary change to the number of reactor vessel water level trip systems required to be operable does not change the licensing or design basis limits for the initiation of protective actions. Compensatory measures will adequately compensate for the lack of single failure proof automatic initiation capability of the Core Spray and Low Pressure Coolant Injection systems during the period in which the effected systems will be out of service. Therefore, the proposed amendment does not involve a significant 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 Rules Review and Directives Branch, Division of Freedom of Information and Publications Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, and should cite the publication date and page number of this FEDERAL REGISTER notice. Written comments may also be delivered to Room P-223, Phillips Building, 7920 Norfolk Avenue, Bethesda, 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 20555.

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

By November 1, 1993, 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 20555 and at the local

public document room located at the Athens Public Library, South Street, Athens, Alabama 35611. 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, Attention: Docketing and Services Branch, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20555, by the above date. Where petitions are filed during the last 10 days of the notice period, it is requested that the petitioner promptly so inform the Commission by a toll-free telephone call to Western Union at 1-(800) 248-5100 (in Missouri 1-(800) 342-6700). The Western Union operator should be given Datagram Identification Number N1023 and the following message addressed to Frederick J. Hebdon, petitioner's name and telephone number, date petition was mailed, plant name, and publication date and page number of this FEDERAL REGISTER notice. A copy of the petition should also be sent to the Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, and to General Counsel, Tennessee Valley Authority, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, ET 11H, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902, attorney for the licensee.

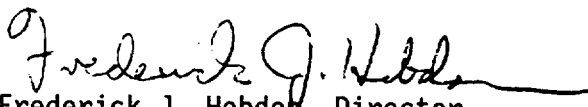
Nontimely filings of petitions for leave to intervene, amended petitions, supplemental petitions and/or requests for hearing will not be

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 15, 1993, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20555 and at the local public document room located at the Athens Public Library, South Street, Athens, Alabama 35611.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 23rd day of September 1993.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


Frederick J. Hebdow, Director
Project Directorate II-4
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation