

October 14, 2003

Mr. J. A. Scalice
Chief Nuclear Officer and
Executive Vice President
Tennessee Valley Authority
6A Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

SUBJECT: BELLEFONTE NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2; BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3; SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2; WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 — REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING CHANGES TO THE QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM (TAC NOS. MC0676, MC0679, MC0680, MC0681, MC0682, MC0677, MC0678, MC0683, MC0684)

Dear Mr. Scalice:

By letter dated August 28, 2003, the Tennessee Valley Authority submitted proposed changes to its quality assurance program, applicable to the Bellefonte, Browns Ferry, Sequoyah, and Watts Bar Nuclear Plants. Your letter states that you have determined that the changes constitute a reduction in commitment to the quality assurance program; therefore, these changes must be submitted to and approved by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff prior to implementation in accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Section 50.54(a)(4).

The NRC staff has completed its initial review of the submittal and has determined that additional information, as shown in the enclosure, is necessary to complete the review. In addition to the request for additional information, this letter informs you that the NRC has not provided its final approval of the requested changes to your quality assurance program as described in your August 28, 2003, submittal.

NRC's approval is contingent upon your response to our request for additional information. The request for additional information and the need for review of your response was discussed with Mr. R. B. Brown of your staff on October 8, 2003.

Please contact me at (301) 415-4041 if you have any other questions on these issues.

Sincerely,
/RA/

Margaret H. Chernoff, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-259, 50-260, 50-296, 50-327,
50-328, 50-390, 50-391, 50-438 & 50-439

Enclosure: Request for Additional Information

cc w/enclosures: See next page

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Distribution: See next page

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Mr. J. A. Scalice
Tennessee Valley Authority

BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT
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cc:

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Mr. J. A. Scalice
Tennessee Valley Authority

BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT
SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR PLANT
WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT

cc: (cont'd)

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Request for Additional Information
Proposed Revision to the Tennessee Valley Authority
Nuclear Quality Assurance Plan (NQAP)

Change #2 (Enclosure 3 of the submittal) proposes the addition of a new Appendix F to the NQAP which states that deferred plant equipment may be abandoned in place.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's policy statement on deferred plants was published in the *Federal Register* (52 FR 38077) on October 14, 1987. Holders of construction permits for nuclear power plants were alerted of the policy through Generic Letter 87-015, which calls particular attention to quality assurance requirements for maintenance, preservation and documentation.

Please describe how your position on deferred plant equipment, described in the proposed new Appendix F to the NQAP, is consistent with the Commission's policy. Further, describe your process for tracking and documenting the status of deferred plant equipment pending reactivation of construction activities.

Enclosure

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