

December 20, 2004

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

SUBJECT: BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 2 AND 3 — WITHDRAWAL OF RELIEF REQUEST REGARDING NONDESTRUCTIVE EXAMINATION OF REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL NOZZLE-TO-VESSEL WELDS AND NOZZLE BLEND RADII (TAC NOS. MC0167 AND MC0168)

Dear Mr. Singer:

By letter dated July 25, 2003, as supplement by a letter dated November 15, 2004, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) submitted Relief Requests Nos. 2-ISI-22 and 3-ISI-18 for Browns Ferry Units 2 and 3 from the inservice inspection requirements of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section XI, (ASME Code) for the volumetric (UT) examination of reactor pressure vessel (RPV) nozzle-to-vessel welds and inner radius sections. Instead, TVA proposed to use the technical basis of Report 108, "BWR [Boiling-Water Reactor] Vessel and Internals Project Technical Basis for the Reduction of Inspection Requirements for the Boiling Water Reactor Nozzle-to-Vessel Shell Welds and Nozzle Blend Radii," to (1) reduce the inspection of these areas from 100 percent to 25 percent each 10-year interval and (2) replace UT by enhanced remote visual VT-1 for RPV nozzles inner radius section and by enhanced direct visual VT-1 for RPV head nozzles. Subsequently, by letter dated November 15, 2004, you superseded the relief request in it's entirety. The purpose of this letter is to advise that the above cited application is being treated as withdrawn.

Although your original request has been withdrawn, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff found that a response to the request for additional information issued on March 24, 2004, was needed before the review could be completed. The NRC staff notes that timely responses to questions are necessary to ensure an efficient use of NRC resources and the completion of

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the review by your requested date. In the future, if a timely response cannot be provided, the NRC staff may decide to reject your application to allow resources to be redirected to other reviews.

This completes the staff's review of the July 25, 2003, submittal under TAC Nos. MC0167 and MC0168.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Eva A. Brown, Project Manager, Section 2  
Project Directorate II  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-260 and 50-269

cc: See next page

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