

May 27, 2005

Mr. Michael D. Skaggs  
Site Vice President  
Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
P.O. Box 2000  
Decatur, AL 35609

SUBJECT: STATUS OF STAFF REVIEW OF THE BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT  
UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION (TAC NOS. MC1704,  
MC1705, AND MC1706)

Dear Mr. Skaggs:

By letter dated December 31, 2003, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) submitted to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) a license renewal application for Browns Ferry Nuclear (BFN) Plant for Units 1, 2, and 3. The staff is currently reviewing the BFN application.

You had a conference call with Dr. Kuo and the NRC license renewal project manager on March 30, 2005, that was documented in a trip report dated April 19, 2005. This report can be viewed through the Agencywide Documents Access and Management Systems (ADAMS) using Accession No. ML051090488. We have reviewed that report and recognized that we might have mis-characterized TVA's response to requests for additional information (RAIs). Specifically, we stated that TVA was two months behind in responding to all of the staff RAIs. We would like to take this opportunity to clarify the record that TVA has generally responded to the staff RAIs on schedule, except when extended by TVA once. However, the TVA's responses were incomplete in certain areas to adequately support our safety finding.

As discussed, we agreed on a path forward for the staff to prepare a Safety Evaluation Report (SER) with Open Items based on information to be received from TVA by May 27, 2005. In early July 2005, the staff will assess the quality and completeness of the SER, considering the number of open items, and decide if this SER is ready to be submitted for the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards review. At that time, we will let you know if the schedule needs to be extended, based on additional input required from Browns Ferry to allow further issue resolution.

M. Skaggs

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If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Mr. Ram Subbaratnam, Project Manager, at 301-415-1478 or by e-mail at [rxs2@nrc.gov](mailto:rxs2@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Frank P. Gillespie, Deputy Director  
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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

M. Skaggs

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If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Mr. Ram Subbaratnam, Project Manager, at 301-415-1478 or by e-mail at [rxs2@nrc.gov](mailto:rxs2@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Frank P. Gillespie, Deputy Director  
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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

**ADAMS Accession No: ML051460177**

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DATE:	05/ 26 /2005	05/ 26 /2005	05/25/2005	05/ 26/2005	05/ 26 /05	05/ 27 /2005

OFFICIAL RECORD ONLY

DISTRIBUTION: Letter to M. Skaggs, Re: Status of Staff Review for Browns Ferry,  
Dated May 27, 2005

**Adams Accession No: ML051460177**

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BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT  
Tennessee Valley Authority

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