

August 9, 2005

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: SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT (SER) WITH OPEN ITEMS RELATED TO
THE LICENSE RENEWAL OF BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1, 2,
AND 3 (TAC NOS. MC1704, MC1705, AND MC1706)

Dear Mr. Singer:

By letter dated December 31, 2003, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA or the applicant) submitted an application to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the staff) for the renewal of the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant (BFN), Units 1, 2, and 3, operating licenses for up to an additional 20 years. The license renewal application (LRA) was submitted pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 54 (10 CFR 54), "Requirements for Renewal of Operating Licenses for Nuclear Power Plants." The NRC staff determined that the LRA was complete and acceptable for docketing on March 4, 2004.

The staff has reviewed the LRA and has developed the enclosed "Safety Evaluation Report With Open Items related to the License Renewal of the BFN, Units 1, 2, and 3," hereinafter referred to as the Safety Evaluation Report (SER). This SER reflects the status of the staff's review of the LRA, requests for additional information (RAIs), the applicant's responses to the NRC RAIs and other questions related to the LRA through June 15, 2005, unless otherwise noted. Issuance of the enclosed SER is an important milestone for both the applicant and the staff.

The staff has identified in its review open and confirmatory items, that must be resolved before it can make a final determination on the application. These open items are summarized in Section 1.5 of the SER. Section 1.6 of the SER includes a listing of confirmatory items with an explanation of the information required to satisfactorily resolve the issue. In order to close both of these items, the staff needs the additional information, as identified in the SER.

In accordance with the schedule for completing the review of the BFN LRA, the applicant is requested to review the enclosed SER, verify its accuracy, and provide comments to the NRC staff by September 9, 2005. The NRC staff plans to review the current content and format of the SER for further improvement while incorporating the applicant's comments. A complete and revised SER will then be issued by January 16, 2006.

The staff is committed to completing the review of the BFN SER in a timely manner. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the license renewal project managers, Ram Subbaratnam at 301-415-1478 or via e-mail at RXS2@nrc.gov or Yaira K. Diaz Sanabria at 301-415-1594 or via e-mail at YKS@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA S. Lee for:/

Pao-Tsin Kuo, Program Director
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

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BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT

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BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT

- 2 -

Tennessee Valley Authority

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DISTRIBUTION: Letter to K. Singer, Re: SER w/Open Items related to Browns Ferry

Dated: August 9, 2005

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