

September 01, 2006

TVA-BFN-TS-455

10 CFR 50.90

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Mail Stop: OWFN P1-35
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Gentlemen:

In the Matter of)
Tennessee Valley Authority)

Docket No. 50-259

BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT (BFN) - UNIT 1 - TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS (TS) CHANGE TS-455 - SAFETY LIMIT MINIMUM CRITICAL POWER RATIO (SLMCPR) - CYCLE 7 OPERATION - RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (RAI) (TAC NO. MD1721)

This letter is in response to the August 22, 2006, NRC RAI regarding BFN TS change 455. The proposed TS amendment, which was submitted May 1, 2006 (ADAMS Accession No. ML061290590), requests the revision of the SLMCPR numeric values in TS 2.1.1.2 for one and two recirculation loop operation to match the results of the Unit 1 Cycle 7 SLMCPR analysis.

NRC RAI

1. Since channel bow uncertainty is included in SLMCPR calculation, confirm that the fuel in Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Unit 1 Cycle 7 will be loaded using new fuel channels.

TVA Response

1. As identified in the May 1, 2006, TS-455 submittal, 92 previously irradiated fuel assemblies will be in the Unit 1 Cycle 7 core. Each previously irradiated assembly will be loaded in a peripheral core location. These once- and twice- burned peripheral assemblies will continue operation with their original fuel channels. All fresh fuel in the Unit 1 Cycle 7 core will have new fuel channels. This includes all of the 672 non-peripheral fuel assemblies. The impact of channel bow uncertainty has been conservatively addressed in the Unit 1 Cycle 7 SLMCPR calculation.

TVA has determined that the above RAI response does not change the determination in the May 1, 2006, TS-455 submittal that there are no significant hazards considerations associated with the proposed change and that the TS change qualifies for a categorical exclusion from environmental review pursuant to the provisions of 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). Additionally, in accordance with 10 CFR 50.91(b)(1), TVA is sending a copy of this letter to the Alabama State Department of Public Health.

No new regulatory commitments have been made in this submittal. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (256)729-2636.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on this 1st day of September, 2006.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Brian O'Grady

cc: See page 3

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