

January 25, 2007

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 1, 2, AND 3 — REQUEST FOR SCHEDULE REGARDING ANALYSIS FOR STEAM DRYERS ON EXTENDED POWER UPRATE AMENDMENT REQUESTS (TAC NOS. MC3812, MC3743, AND MC3744) (TS-431 AND TS-418)

Dear Mr. Singer:

This letter requests unit specific schedule information regarding the steam dryer stress analysis report in support of the ongoing extended power uprate (EPU) amendment request review. By letters dated June 25 and 28, 2004, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) submitted amendment requests for Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant (BFN), Units 1, 2, and 3. The proposed amendments would change the BFN operating licenses to increase the maximum authorized power level by approximately 20 percent above the current maximum authorized power level for Unit 1, and approximately 15 percent for Units 2 and 3.

During a public meeting held on October 10, 2006, TVA presented its plans to address the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's concerns regarding the structural integrity of the steam dryers. In the October 10, 2006, meeting, and during subsequent informal conversations, TVA indicated that a revised stress analysis report, incorporating an analysis of actual operating data from Unit 2, would be submitted for NRC staff review by November 27, 2006. However, TVA did not submit a revised steam dryer stress report by that date.

In a letter dated December 1, 2006, the NRC staff informed TVA that it would reestablish the review schedule of the proposed EPU amendment requests upon receipt of the schedule for submittal of the revised stress analysis report. Subsequently, on January 17, 2007, TVA indicated that this information for all three units would be submitted the first week in March in order to support the requested NRC approval timeframe of late summer 2007.

It is the NRC staff's understanding that the information gathered from Unit 2 will be applied in support of the Unit 1 EPU application. Your evaluation of the similarity of the reactor vessels, steam systems, and their components, between the units, will need to justify the application of Unit 2 plant data for the Units 1 and 3 steam dryer stress analysis. If the justification is not sufficient, the NRC staff will expect unit-specific data collected at 105 percent of the original licensed thermal power for each of the three BFN units, in order for the NRC staff to complete the review of the EPU license amendment requests.

K. W. Singer

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Therefore, TVA is requested to provide a schedule for the submittal of the steam dryer analysis and an outline of the revised steam dryer approach which establishes a success path for the EPU operation. The outline should include plans to address the justification of the similarity between the units, the analysis assumptions, and the plans for the development of limiting curves for the startup power ascension. The outline and schedule should be provided by February 2, 2007. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Eva Brown at 301-415-2315.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Timothy J. McGinty, Deputy Director  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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

cc: See next page

Therefore, TVA is requested to provide a schedule for the submittal of the steam dryer analysis and an outline of the revised steam dryer approach which establishes a success path for the EPU operation. The outline should include plans to address the justification of the similarity between the units, the analysis assumptions, and the plans for the development of limiting curves for the startup power ascension. The outline and schedule should be provided by February 2, 2007. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Eva Brown at 301-415-2315.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. McGinty, Deputy Director  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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

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