

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

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July 3, 1985

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region II
Attn: Dr. J. Nelson Grace, Regional Administrator
101 Marietta Street, NW, Suite 2900
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

Dear Dr. Grace:

WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT - REACTOR PROTECTION SYSTEM P-10 TRIP SETPOINT AND RESET VALUE

In the NRC inspection report number 50-390/85-32 item k(2), the NRC Region II inspection team that reviewed Watts Bar surveillance instructions identified a possible discrepancy in the data package for SI-3.1.4 regarding the P-10 setpoint and reset value. This issue was also discussed at a recent meeting at the NRC Region II office. The Region II inspection team position was that both the trip setpoint and the reset value should fall within the allowable band specified in the technical specifications. TVA initially agreed that the two values would be adjusted to fall within the allowable band. TVA has since re-evaluated its position and now believes that only the trip setpoint need fall within the allowable band specified in the technical specifications.

The inspection team's concern stemmed from the fact that P-10 performs two different functions. On increasing power, P-10 enables the manual block of the intermediate range and power range low setpoint reactor trips and automatically enables the at-power reactor trips. On decreasing power, P-10 automatically disables the at-power trips, automatically enables the intermediate range and power range low setpoint reactor trips, and enables part of the logic to automatically reinstate the source range detectors. The source range detectors automatically energize below the P-6 setpoint. The inspection team placed importance on the P-10 reset value because it must change states to enable the source range automatic energization.

TVA has re-evaluated the inspection team's concern and believes it is without merit. P-10 does not, by itself, reinstate the source range monitors. The tolerance recommended by the inspection team for the P-10 reset value is unnecessary because further power reductions to below the P-6 setpoint are required to energize the source range detectors. It is interesting that the inspection team focused on the P-10 reset value without addressing the reset values for other permissives. It is the P-6 reset value that automatically energizes the source range detectors.

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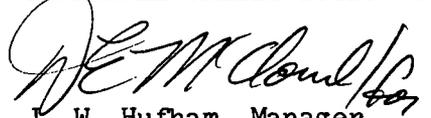
TVA discussed the issue of reset values in the technical specifications with NRC-NRR (Tom Dunning) by telephone on May 10, 1985. The NRC-NRR position on this issue was that the allowable band in the technical specifications applies to the bistable trip setpoint only. The reset value should be set in accordance with the vendor recommendations contained in the precautions, limitations, and setpoints document.

In summary, TVA has re-evaluated the NRC inspection team's concern regarding the trip setpoint and reset value for the P-10 permissive bistable and believes that it is without merit. TVA has discussed this issue with NRC-NRR and they concur with TVA's position. TVA will set the P-10 permissive trip setpoint and maintain it within the allowable band specified in the technical specifications. The reset value for the P-10 permissive bistable will be set in accordance with vendor recommendations.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with R. H. Shell at FTS 858-2688.

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY


J. W. Hufham, Manager
Licensing and Regulations

cc: Mr. James Taylor, Director
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555