



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

March 18, 1993

Docket Nos. 50-390
and 50-391

Tennessee Valley Authority
ATTN: Dr. Mark O. Medford, Vice President
Nuclear Assurance, Licensing and Fuels
3B Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

Dear Dr. Medford:

SUBJECT: WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT - COMPLIANCE WITH 10 CFR 50.63, STATION
BLACKOUT (TAC NOS. M68624, M68625)

The Station Blackout (SBO) Rule requires licensees to submit information as defined in 10 CFR 50.63 and to provide a plan and schedule for conformance to the SBO Rule. The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), a prospective licensee for Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, provided a response to the SBO rule by letters dated August 31, 1992, and January 27, 1993.

The enclosed safety evaluation (SE) finds TVA's response and proposed method of dealing with an SBO to be generally acceptable. However, TVA should confirm, based on its experience, that the expected frequency of a grid-related loss of offsite power (LOOP) does not exceed once in 20 years (Section 2.1 of the SE). In addition, the following areas may require follow-up inspection by the staff. Inspection guidance for these items is being developed.

- a. Hardware, if necessary, and procedural modifications.
- b. SBO procedures in accordance with RG 1.155, Position 3.4, and NUMARC 87-00, Section 4.
- c. Operator staffing and training to follow the identified actions in the procedures.
- d. Emergency diesel generator (EDG) reliability program meets, as a minimum, the guidelines of RG 1.155.
- e. Equipment and components required to cope with an SBO are incorporated in a quality assurance (QA) program that meets the guidance of RG 1.155, Appendix A.
- f. Action taken pertaining to the specific recommendation noted in the SE.

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Mark O. Medford

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The guidance provided on technical specifications (TS) for an SBO states that the TS should be consistent with the Interim Commission Policy Statement on Technical Specifications. The staff has taken the position that TS are required for SBO response equipment. However, the question of how specifications for the SBO equipment will be applied is currently being considered, generically, by the NRC in the context of the Technical Specification Improvement Program and remains an open item at this time. In the interim, the staff expects plant procedures to reflect the appropriate testing and surveillance requirements to ensure the operability of the necessary SBO equipment. If the staff later determines that TS regarding the SBO equipment is warranted, TVA will be notified of the implementation requirements.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Peter S. Tam, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate II-4
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosure:
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