

September 5, 1995

Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, Jr.  
President, TVA Nuclear and  
Chief Nuclear Officer  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
6A Lookout Place  
1101 Market Street  
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

SUBJECT: WATTS BAR UNIT 1 - RELIEF FROM ASME SECTION XI REGARDING  
PRESSURIZER SAFETY VALVE TESTING (TAC NO. M92773)

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

In a letter dated June 29, 1995, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), requested for Watts Bar Unit 1 an alternative to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code pursuant to paragraph 50.55a(a)(3) of Part 50 to Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Specifically, TVA requested that the staff allow an alternative for set pressure testing of the three pressurizer safety relief valves (PSRVs) that provide overpressure protection for the reactor coolant system. The staff has reviewed TVA's basis for the requested alternative, with further information provided in TVA's letter dated August 9, 1995. The staff has determined that the alternative is acceptable for the reasons delineated in the enclosed safety evaluation.

Based on the hardship or unusual difficulty without a compensating increase in the level of quality and safety that would incur if the requirements were imposed, TVA's proposed alternative is authorized pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(ii). However, the authorization is not valid if initial fuel loading occurs beyond 12 months from the date the valves were tested. TVA has agreed that if the fuel loading occurs beyond 12 months from the date of the set pressure testing performed at the Crosby test facility, the PSRVs will be retested within 6 months prior to the actual initial fuel loading.

Sincerely,

Original signed by D. LaBarge for

Frederick J. Hebdon, Director  
Project Directorate II-3  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-390

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

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