Tennessee Valley Authority, Post Office Box 2000, Spring City, Tennessee 37381-2000

JUN 2 5 1999

TVA-WBN-TS-98-016 10 CFR 50.90

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, D. C. 20555

Gentlemen:

In the Matter of) Docket No. 50-390
Tennessee Valley Authority)

WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT (WBN) UNIT 1 - TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION (TS) CHANGE NO. WBN-TS-98-016 - BEST ESTIMATE (BE) LARGE BREAK LOSS-OF-COOLANT ACCIDENT ANALYSIS (LBLOCA)

In accordance with the provisions of 10 CFR 50.4 and 50.90, TVA is submitting a request for an amendment to WBN's license NPF-90 to change the TS for Unit 1. The proposed amendment requests approval to apply the Westinghouse generic Best Estimate Large Break (LB) Loss-of-Coolant Accident(LOCA) Analysis methodology using the WCOBRA/TRAC computer code.

Approval of the Westinghouse generic Best Estimate LB LOCA analysis was documented in NRC's Safety Evaluation Report (TAC No. M83964) dated June 28, 1996. A plant specific analysis (WCAP-14839, Revision 1) has been performed for WBN Unit 1 using the approved methodology. Plant specific analysis parameters used in the analysis are treated as described in the generic methodology. Therefore, the Watts Bar specific analysis conforms to 10 CFR 50.46 and Section II of Appendix K, and meets the intent of Regulatory Guide 1.157.

TVA has determined that there are no significant hazards considerations associated with the proposed change and that the change is exempt from environmental review pursuant to the provisions of 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). The WBN Plant Operations Review Committee and the TVA Nuclear Safety Review

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Board have reviewed this proposed change and determined that operation of WBN Unit 1 in accordance with the proposed change, will not endanger the health and safety of the public. Additionally, in accordance with 10 CFR 50.91(b)(1), TVA is sending a copy of this letter and enclosures to the Tennessee State Department of Public Health.

Enclosure 1 to this letter provides the description and evaluation of the proposed change. This includes TVA's determination that the proposed change does not involve a significant hazards consideration, and is exempt from environmental review. Enclosure 2 contains copies of the appropriate TS pages from Unit 1 marked-up to show the proposed change. Enclosure 3 forwards the revised TS pages for Unit 1 which incorporate the proposed change.

The peak clad temperature results presented in Table 2 of the Basis for the Technical Specification Change are based on an accumulator water temperature range of 100°F to 120°F (statistically analyzed between 110°F and 120°F as part of the Best Estimate LOCA methodology). These results are not recorded in the technical specification change but are a part of the associated FSAR update to Table 15.4-18 when the use of this analysis is approved. During the 1998 summer months, WBN experienced higher accumulator room temperatures than those analyzed as noted in TVA's Annual 10 CFR 50.46 Emergency Core Cooling System Report for WBN dated March 29, 1999. Corrective actions were taken to reduce those maximum temperatures during the Spring 1999 Unit 1 Cycle 2 outage (i.e., insulated a large hot pipe that ran through the accumulator room, adjusted leaking check valves, etc.). Effectiveness of that corrective action is being monitored through the 1999 summer months. TVA anticipates successful results from those corrective actions. These actions are being tracked through TVA's corrective action program.

The proposed changes are not required to address an immediate safety concern. This change does require a modification which can only be implemented during plant shutdown. Therefore, TVA requests that the revised TS be made effective before returning to operation from the Unit 1, Cycle 3 refueling outage.

If you have any questions about this change, please contact me at (423) 365-1824.

Sincerely,

P. L. Pace, Manager
Licensing and Industry Affairs

Enclosures
cc: See page 3

Subscribed and sworn to before me
on this 25th day of June 1999.

E. Jeannette Long
Notary Public

My Commission Expires June 27, 2001

cc (Enclosures):
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