

August 25, 1999

Mr. J. A. Scalice
Chief Nuclear Officer
and Executive Vice President
Tennessee Valley Authority
6A Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

SUBJECT: RELIEF FROM ASME CODE REPAIR REQUIREMENTS FOR CANOPY SEAL
WELDS AT WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT (TAC NO. MA5051)

Dear Mr. Scalice:

By letters dated March 19 and April 7, 1999, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) submitted a request for relief from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section XI repair requirements under Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) Section 50.55a(a)(3)(i) for the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 1. The request addressed repair of one control rod drive mechanism lower canopy seal weld, identified during the Cycle 2 refueling outage, by weld buildup rather than the removal of the defects and performing a Code weld repair.

The staff has reviewed the information provided in TVA's March 19 and April 7, 1999 letters. The staff's evaluation and conclusions are contained in the Enclosure. The staff finds that the alternate repair and inspection of the lower canopy seal weld provides an acceptable level of safety and quality. Accordingly the staff authorizes the use of such alternative pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i).

Sincerely,

Original signed by L. Wiens for:
Sheri Peterson, Chief, Section 2
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-390

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosure: See next page

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sheri Peterson", is written over the typed name.

Sheri Peterson, Chief, Section 2
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-390

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

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