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John A. Scalice
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AUG 06 1996

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
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Gentlemen:

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

WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT (WBN) UNIT 1 - SPENT FUEL SURVEY
COMMITMENTS FOR WATTS BAR UNIT 1 (TAC NO. M94480)

The purpose of this letter is to provide TVA's response to NRC's request for additional information dated July 2, 1996. In that letter NRC requested TVA to confirm plans and commitments with respect to milestones discussed in the letter including completion dates planned for each of the actions.

WBN anticipates requesting a license amendment to replace the existing spent fuel storage racks with racks that were previously installed at TVA's Sequoyah Nuclear Plant. These replacement racks expand the total storage capacity of the spent fuel pool (SFP). Consequently, the increased storage also increases the decay heat load which must be removed by the SFP cooling and cleaning system (SFPCCS). As part of that effort, a new thermal hydraulic analysis is being prepared which is intended to supersede calculation TI-ECS-48, "Spent Fuel Pool Heatup Rates." The licensing amendment package includes the thermal hydraulic analysis.

TVA agrees that the practice of full core offloading during refueling outages may be an advantageous process. The new thermal hydraulic analysis discussed above, is based on a full core offload as the bounding case. This bounding case provides WBN with the opportunity to perform refueling activities by any method that is bounded by the analysis. WBN does not plan to commit to a

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full core offload for each refueling outage, but, intends to maintain flexibility in that process.

TVA anticipates submitting WBN's proposed licensing amendment for SFP rerack to NRC in the Fall of 1996 as stated in TVA's response to NRC Bulletin 96-02 dated May 13, 1996. In order to support the Cycle 1 outage, the modifications to the SFP should begin in early Spring of 1997.

As a point of clarification, the WBN Technical Requirements Manual (TRM) TR 3.9.1 states the reactor shall be subcritical ≥ 100 hours prior to movement of irradiated fuel in the reactor vessel. This minimum requirement ensures that sufficient time has elapsed to allow for the radioactive decay of the short-lived fission products, thus, ensuring compliance with the offsite doses for a fuel handling event as discussed in Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR) Section 15.5.6. Additionally, the FSAR discrepancy in Section 9.1.3.1.1 related to SFP heat loads with no additional decay time is being addressed by TVA's corrective action program and is being updated in accordance with 10 CFR 50.71(e).

Because the current SFP configuration and analysis meet WBN's current licensing basis, no new commitments are identified in this letter. The schedules provided should be considered for planning purposes only. If you should have any questions, please contact P. L. Pace at (423) 365-1824.

Sincerely,



J. A. Scalice

cc: NRC Resident Inspector
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