



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

John A. Scalice  
Site Vice President, Watts Bar Nuclear Plant

JAN 23 1997

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

Gentlemen:

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

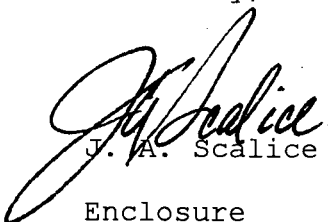
WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT (WBN) - COMPLETION OF THE LARGE LOAD  
REDUCTION TEST

The purpose of this letter is to notify NRC of the successful completion of the large load reduction test for WBN. As discussed in TVA's August 28, 1996 letter, TVA committed to reperform this test. The reperformance was initially attempted on September 28, 1996, prior to beginning the scheduled mid-cycle outage but was aborted when a larger than expected load decrease caused condenser back-pressure to rise above the preset administrative limit.

A second test was successfully completed on October 20, 1996. The enclosure provides a summary of the test results. The test documentation is available for review onsite.

If you should have any questions, please contact P. L. Pace at (423) 365-1824.

Sincerely,

  
J. A. Scalice

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Enclosure  
cc: See page 2

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cc (Enclosure):

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ENCLOSURE

WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT  
LARGE LOAD REDUCTION TEST  
TEST RESULTS SUMMARY

On October 20, 1996, at approximately 0012 Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), with the plant at approximately 97 percent reactor power and electrical load at approximately 1167 MWe, Special Test Instruction (STI)-96-01, "50% Load Reduction Test," was initiated. During the test, all plant parameters trended toward stability. At approximately 0040 EDT, all monitored plant parameters reached a stable condition corresponding to a plant power level of 45 percent. Stability was declared and all acceptance criteria were met.

This test demonstrated the following FSAR Chapter 14 acceptance criteria:

- Reactor and turbine did not trip.
- Safety injection was not initiated.
- None of the pressurizer and steam generator safety valves lifted.
- Plant parameters stabilized without manual intervention.

Further information and details of the test can be found in the test documentation. The test documentation is available onsite for NRC review.