



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

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

JUL 21 1997

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 - NRC LETTER DATED JUNE 24,
1997 REGARDING THE TRITIUM PRODUCING BURNABLE POISON ROD (TPBAR)
LEAD TEST ASSEMBLIES (TA NO. M98615)

The purpose of this letter is to provide a response to the subject NRC letter which requested a written technical justification for differences between the licensing basis for burnable poison (BP) rods and the TPBARs. Discussions held between representatives of NRC and TVA, Pacific Northwest National Laboratories (PNNL), Department of Energy (DOE), and Westinghouse by telephone on July 1, 1997, and a meeting held on July 3, 1997, in Rockville, Maryland, have resulted in a revision to PNNL document TTQP-1-046, Revision 3, describing the safety classification of all TPBAR components. The enclosure provides this issued revision to this PNNL document. The schedule for providing this information was coordinated with the NRC staff during the July 3, 1997 Rockville meeting.

It is TVA's understanding that NRC issues concerning the BP safety classification have been resolved based on NRC review of this document at PNNL during the week of July 7, 1997.

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

Sincerely,



J. A. Scalice

Enclosure

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cc (Enclosure):

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