



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

August 11, 1997

Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, Jr.  
President, TVA Nuclear and  
Chief Nuclear Officer  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
6A Lookout Place  
1101 Market Street  
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

SUBJECT: EVALUATION OF INSERVICE INSPECTION PROGRAM SNUBBBER RELIEF REQUEST  
FOR THE WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT (TAC NO. M94672)

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

By letter dated February 7, 1996 as supplemented December 5, 1996, May 23, 1997 and July 1, 1997, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) submitted a request for relief from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel (B&PV) Code, Section XI requirements for inservice inspection (ISI) of snubbers for the Watts Bar Nuclear plant, Unit 1 (WBN) First 10 year Interval ISI Program.

Currently, TVA is required to incorporate the 1989 Edition of the ASME B&PV Code, Section XI as the governing document for the first 10-year ISI interval for WBN Unit 1. Section XI, Article IWF-5000 provides the ISI requirements for Code Class snubbers, including the requirement to examine and test the snubbers in accordance with the first Addenda to ASME/ANSI OM-1987, Part 4 (OMa-1988, Part 4). The OMa-1988, Part 4 scope requires that all ASME Code Class 1, 2, and 3 snubbers be inspected and tested to Part 4 requirements. However, requirements for the examination and functional testing of all safety-related snubbers to ensure their operability are also contained in the WBN Unit 1 Technical Requirements Manual (TRM) section 3.7.3 which is incorporated into the Final Safety Analysis Report. The snubbers are already within the current TRM scope, but OMa-1988, Part 4 would require the creation of a separate program. TVA has requested relief that would allow the examination and testing of snubbers in accordance with TRM section 3.7.3

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The staff has reviewed the information provided in TVA's February 7, 1996, December 5, 1996, May 23, 1997 and July 1, 1997 letters. The staff's evaluation and conclusions are contained in the Enclosure. The staff finds

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that the use of the TRM program 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  
Frederick J. Hebdon, Director  
Project Directorate II-3  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-390

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosure: See next page

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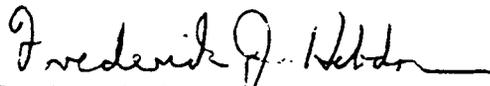
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Sincerely,



Frederick J. Hebbon, Director  
Project Directorate II-3  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-390

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosure: See next page

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