

58-390



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 23, 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 THE FIRST 10-YEAR INTERVAL INSPECTION PROGRAM PLAN
REQUESTS FOR RELIEF ISPT-02, ISPT-03 AND ISPT-06 FOR THE WATTS BAR
NUCLEAR PLANT (TAC NO. M95440)

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

By letter dated May 9, 1996, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) submitted requests for relief numbered ISPT-02, ISPT-03 and ISPT-06 regarding the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code. These requests for relief are part of the present review by the staff of TVA's first 10-year interval inservice inspection (ISI) program plan and associated requests for relief for the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant (WBN). TVA requested that the review of these requests for relief be expedited, because they are applicable to the 1997 fall outage. Additional information was provided by TVA in its letters dated March 24 and August 8, 1997.

Requests for relief ISPT-02, ISPT-03 and ISPT-06 address (a) use of ASME Code Case N-416-1, *"Alternative Pressure Test Requirements for Welded Repairs or Installation of Replacements Items by Welding"*, (b) Section XI, IWA-5250(a)(2), *Corrective Action Resulting from Leakage at Bolted Connections*, and (c) use of ASME Code Case N-533, *Alternative Requirements for VT-2 Visual Examination of Class 1 Insulated Pressure-Retaining Bolted Connections*, respectively.

The staff, with technical assistance from its contractor, the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL), has reviewed the information provided in TVA's May 9, 1996, and March 24 and August 8, 1997 letters. The staff's safety evaluation and conclusions are contained in the Enclosure. Attached to the Enclosure is the INEEL Technical Letter Report. The staff concludes that for Relief Requests ISPT-02, ISPT-03, and ISPT-06, the licensee has demonstrated that specific Section XI requirements would result in hardship or unusual difficulty without a compensating increase in the level of quality and safety. Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(ii), the licensee's proposed alternatives are authorized.

The licensee's proposed alternatives to use Code Cases N-416-1 and N-533 contained in requests for relief ISPT-02 and ISPT-06, respectively, are authorized for the current interval or until such time as the Code Cases are published in Regulatory Guide 1.147. At that time, if the licensee intends to

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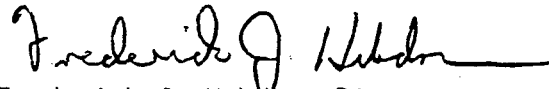


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continue to implement these Code Cases, the licensee should follow all provisions in Code Cases N-416-1 and N-533, with limitations issued in Regulatory Guide 1.147, if any.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Frederick J. Hebdon", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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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Sincerely,

/S/

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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