



Tennessee Valley Authority, 1101 Market Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

May 11, 1998

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

Gentlemen:

In the Matter of ) Docket Nos. 50-390 50-438  
Tennessee Valley Authority ) 50-391 50-439

PROPOSED LICENSING ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT TRITIUM PRODUCTION

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the projected FY98 and FY99 TVA licensing activities to support tritium production at our Watts Bar (WBN) and Bellefonte Nuclear Plants (BLN). This is a follow-up to our recent meeting at which we presented a schedule based on a March 1998 Base Contract Award by the Department of Energy (DOE). The schedule for this award has slipped and is now expected this summer; therefore, the schedule we presented has slipped accordingly. As you are aware, TVA licensing activities for tritium production are dependent on DOE decisions.

DOE's decision assumptions are:

1. The Base Contract Award is expected in summer 1998, with limited funding available four to six weeks after award.
2. The technology decision is made in December 1998, with the Commercial Light Water Reactor designated as the primary option for tritium. Additional funding is available early 1999, although limited, for post-technology decision activities.
3. Funding for the mobilization of BLN is available fall 1999, with construction/testing scheduled to start 12 to 18 months later.

The proposed licensing activities in FY98 and FY99 for WBN involve the preparation of a plant-specific licensing amendment based on the DOE Topical Report for tritium production. The submittal of the WBN amendment is not anticipated until fall 1999; therefore, no additional NRC support is required in FY99.

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The licensing activities for BLN include discussions with NRC project management to obtain agreement on the licensing approach and schedule for completion of the plant. TVA's approach to the resolution of previous positions, including the identification of any additional regulatory issues, will be submitted for NRC management agreement. The NRC support of detailed technical engineering submittals is not anticipated in FY98 or FY99. Since construction/testing activities are not expected in FY99, no additional inspection resources should be required beyond the present layup and maintenance program reviews.

Please note the above resource projections are based on TVA tritium licensing activities and do not include the required resources to support the review and approval of the DOE Topical Report.

Sincerely,



Mark J. Burzynski  
Manager  
Nuclear Licensing

cc: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region II  
Atlanta Federal Center  
61 Forsyth Street, SW, Suite 23T85  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Mr. R. W. Hernan, Senior Project Manager  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
One White Flint, North  
11555 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Mr. R. E. Martin, Senior Project Manager  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
One White Flint, North  
11555 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Mr. M. C. Thadani, Project Manager  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
One White Flint, North  
11555 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

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cc: NRC Resident Inspector  
Watts Bar Nuclear Plant  
1260 Nuclear Plant Road  
Spring City, Tennessee 37381