



50-390

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 3, 1998

Mr. J. A. Scalice
Chief Nuclear Officer
and Executive Vice President
Tennessee Valley Authority
6A Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

SUBJECT: COMPLETION OF EVALUATION OF THE FIRST 10-YEAR INTERVAL
INSPECTION PROGRAM PLAN AND REQUESTS FOR RELIEF FOR THE WATTS
BAR NUCLEAR PLANT (TAC NO. M95440)

Dear Mr. Scalice:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory (NRC) staff, with technical assistance from its contractor, the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL), has reviewed and evaluated the information provided by the Tennessee Valley Authority, in its letters dated May 9, and November 25, 1996, March 24, and August 8, 1997, regarding its first 10-year interval Inservice Inspection (ISI) program plan and associated requests for relief for the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 1.

The staff has found that there are no deviations from regulatory requirements or commitments that were identified except those noted in the attached evaluation of Request for Relief 1-ISI-1. Of the total of ten requests for relief submitted, five are authorized and one is denied as stated in the enclosure, three were authorized by the staff's letter of September 23, 1997 and one was authorized by the staff's letter of August 11, 1997.

The NRC 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-01, and ISPT-05, the licensee has demonstrated that specific Code 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 staff concludes that for Relief Requests 1-ISI-2, 1-ISI-3 and ISPT-04, the licensee has demonstrated that the proposed alternatives provide an acceptable level of quality and safety. Accordingly, the staff authorizes the use of such alternatives pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i). The staff concludes for Request for Relief No. 1-ISI-1, that based on the licensee's use of Code Case N-509, "Alternative Rules for the Selection and Examination of Class 1, 2, and 3, Integral Welded Attachments, Section XI, Division 1" contained in Request for Relief No. 1-ISI-2 as approved above, no significant burden exists. Accordingly, Request for Relief No. 1-ISI-1 is denied.

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September 3, 1998

The licensee's proposed alternatives to use Code Cases N-509, N-524 and N-522 contained in Requests for Relief Nos. 1-ISI-2, 1-ISI-3 and ISPT-04 and the use of Code Case N-498-1 in Request for Relief ISPT-01, respectively, are authorized for the current interval or until such time as the Code Cases are published in Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.147. At that time, if the licensee intends to continue to implement these Code Cases, the licensee should follow all provisions in Code Cases N-509, N-524, N-522 and N-498-1, with limitations issued in RG 1.147, if any.

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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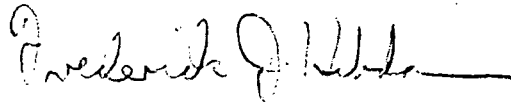
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Mr. J. A. Scalice

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The licensee's proposed alternatives to use Code Cases N-509, N-524 and N-522 contained in Requests for Relief Nos. 1-ISI-2, 1-ISI-3 and ISPT-04 and the use of Code Case N-498-1 in Request for Relief ISPT-01, respectively, are authorized for the current interval or until such time as the Code Cases are published in Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.147. At that time, if the licensee intends to continue to implement these Code Cases, the licensee should follow all provisions in Code Cases N-509, N-524, N-522 and N-498-1, with limitations issued in RG 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

WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT

Tennessee Valley Authority

cc:

Mr. J. A. Scalice
Chief Nuclear Officer and
Executive Vice President
Tennessee Valley Authority
6A Lookout Place
1101 Lookout Place
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

Senior Vice President
Nuclear Operations
Tennessee Valley Authority
6A Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

Mr. Jack A. Bailey, Vice President
Engineering & Technical
Tennessee Valley Authority
6A Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

Mr. Richard T. Purcell, Site Vice President
Watts Bar Nuclear Plant
Tennessee Valley Authority
P.O. Box 2000
Spring City, TN 37381

General Counsel
Tennessee Valley Authority
ET 10H
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, TN 37902

Mr. Raul R. Baron, General Manager
Nuclear Assurance
Tennessee Valley Authority
5M Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

Mr. Mark J. Burzynski, Manager
Nuclear Licensing
Tennessee Valley Authority
4X Blue Ridge
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

Mr. Paul L. Pace, Manager
Licensing
Watts Bar Nuclear Plant
Tennessee Valley Authority
P.O. Box 2000
Spring City, TN 37381

Mr. William R. Lagergren, Plant Manager
Watts Bar Nuclear Plant
Tennessee Valley Authority
P.O. Box 2000
Spring City, TN 37381

Regional Administrator
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region II
61 Forsyth Street, SW., Suite 23T85
Atlanta, GA 30303-3415

Senior Resident Inspector
Watts Bar Nuclear Plant
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1260 Nuclear Plant Road
Spring City, TN 37381

County Executive
Rhea County Courthouse
Dayton, TN 37321

County Executive
Meigs County Courthouse
Decatur, TN 37322

Mr. Michael H. Mobley, Director
TN Dept. of Environment & Conservation
Division of Radiological Health
3rd Floor, L and C Annex
401 Church Street
Nashville, TN 37243-1532