

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37401

5N 157B Lookout Place

JUL 05 1989

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

Gentlemen:

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

WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT (WBN) - DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR WBN TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

This memorandum is to inform you of our plans for the development of the WBN Technical Specifications. Over the past several months, preliminary discussions have been held by members of my staff and your organization. It has been verbally agreed that the best option is to develop the WBN Technical Specifications based on the new Standard Technical Specifications (STS), which for a Westinghouse plant would be the Methodically Engineered, Restructured and Improved, Technical Specifications (MERITS) version.

MERITS is not yet approved, and a target date of February 1990 has been set by NRC for final review and approval. Since WBN will request a fuel load license in December of 1990, a substantial amount of the technical specifications work must be complete before the February 1990 date in order to begin the procedure upgrade program and have adequate time for operator training on the new technical specifications. WBN plans to submit a draft of the WBN Technical Specifications by November 15, 1989. Based on discussions with your organization, receipt of a WBN markup of MERITS in November 1989 should allow NRC adequate time to complete the review of the WBN Technical Specifications by October 1990 in order to support a December 1990 fuel load date.

To address the ongoing changes that are taking place during the review of MERITS, WBN is maintaining close contact with the review and has a representative who is a chapter coordinator for this review. This will minimize deviations from the standard that would require detailed review once the WBN draft is submitted.

TVA recognizes that any items documented in the safety evaluation report (SER) as requiring to be in the WBN Technical Specifications will either have to be complied with or have the technical specifications screening criteria applied to see if it can be relocated outside the technical specifications, and then have the SER revised. As required by the technical specifications process, WBN intends to provide a letter of certification stating that the WBN Technical Specifications accurately reflect the design of the plant and statements made in the Final Safety Analysis Report and the SER.

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As discussed previously with NRC, to address and close correspondence concerning the WBN Technical Specifications that has remained open since the 1985 timeframe, WBN will rebaseline the technical specifications with the MERITS version. Therefore, we do not believe it is necessary to provide any information to previous letters concerning the WBN Technical Specifications, nor do we expect review of any items previously docketed concerning WBN Technical Specifications.

After the WBN Technical Specifications have been submitted, TVA requests feedback as soon as it is available, so that we may resolve any questions and factor any changes into our procedures and operator training as soon as possible. Due to the unique situation of trying to develop the WBN Technical Specifications before the standard has been approved, there will be many areas which will require discussion in order to reach a resolution.

The enclosure identifies the commitment from this submittal which will be tracked on the TVA tracking system.

The WBN individual participating in the MERITS review and WBN Technical Specifications development is M. C. Bryan of WBN Site Licensing at (615) 365-8819. Please direct questions on this subject to Mr. Bryan or T. W. Horning of WBN Site Licensing at (615) 365-3381.

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

  
Manager, Nuclear Licensing  
and Regulatory Affairs

Enclosure  
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ENCLOSURE

List of Commitments

Watts Bar Nuclear Plant (WBN) Development Plan for the WBN Technical Specifications: WBN plans to submit a draft of the WBN Technical Specifications by November 15, 1989.