



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

MAY

May 3, 1984

Docket Nos: 50-390
and 50-391

Mr. H. G. Parris
Manager of Power
Tennessee Valley Authority
500A Chestnut Street, Tower II
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37401

Dear Mr. Parris:

Subject: Compliance of the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant,
Units 1 and 2, with GDC 51

The staff has reviewed your March 30, 1984, letter which provided radiographic examination reports to support our evaluation of the base metal soundness of the wedges of the eight main feedwater isolation valves (MFIV) of the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2.

The radiographic inspection report for MFIV Serial No. D 66459 discloses the presence of internal shrinkage. The radiographic examination data for MFIV Serial No. D 66291 did not include a radiographic inspection report, so the presence or absence of internal shrinkage has not been addressed at all.

As stated in our March 14, 1984, letter, the staff's concern relates to the potential for the propagation of internal shrinkage with time in service. Given such potential an uncertainty remains in the case of the wedges of the two valves cited above with respect to the adequacy of the margin of safety against brittle fracture provided by the + 40°F lowest service metal temperature identified by your staff. Absent the reasonable assurance against brittle fracture under operating, maintenance, testing and postulated accident conditions as cited by GDC 51, the staff has concluded that the wedges of MFIV S/N D66291 and MFIV S/N D66459 are unacceptable. Therefore, we request that you propose alternatives to the use of these wedges in the Watts Bar facility.

Resolution of this matter must be reached prior to fuel load. Therefore, we request your proposal be submitted for our evaluation no later than May 31, 1984. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact the project manager, T. J. Kenyon, at (301) 492-7266.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Novak, Assistant Director
for Licensing
Division of Licensing

cc: See next page

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A PDR

Certified By B. Gaston

WATTS BAR

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