

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

5N 157B Lookout Place

March 27, 1986

Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Attention: Mr. B. J. Youngblood, Project Director
PWR Project Directorate No. 4
Division of Pressurized Water Reactor (PWR)
Licensing A
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Youngblood:

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

Please refer to L. M. Mills's letter to A. Schwencer dated April 30, 1981 and the Watts Bar Safety Evaluation Report (SER) - NUREG 0847, Section 9.5.1.5, "Fire Protection for Specific Areas", page 9-37, which concerns main control room (MCR) carpet fire protection requirements. The present carpet in the Watts Bar MCR exceeds the requirements approved in the SER. However, the carpet is worn and needs replacing.

Carpet manufacturers currently use an updated test method, the critical radiant flux test method, to fire rate their products. The critical radiant flux method has been adopted by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) as NFPA 253-1978 and ASTM E648-79.

In lieu of the carpet fire protection requirements approved in the SER, we will base any decision for carpet replacement on current requirements for carpet fire protection as noted in NFPA 101 for meeting the requirements of class 1, "Interior Floor Finish."

If there are any questions, please get in touch with K. P. Parr at FTS 858-2681.

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

R. L. Gridley
R. L. Gridley
Manager of Licensing

cc: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region II
Attention: Dr. J. Nelson Grace, Regional Administrator
101 Marietta Street, NW, Suite 2900
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

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