

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37401

5N 157B Lookout Place

May 23, 1986

Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Denton:

In the Matter of) Docket No. 50-390
Tennessee Valley Authority)

On December 12, 1985 and January 7, 1986, TVA representatives met with NRC staff to discuss our plans for review of the TVA welding program. Watts Bar Nuclear Plant (WBN) units 1 and 2 have been constructed under Construction Permits CPPR 390 and 391. Design and construction activities were controlled by the quality assurance program described in the approved safety analysis report and topical report which complies with the requirements of 10 CFR 50. The welding at WBN was performed under this program, requiring qualified process control and inspection procedures, personnel, and material. During the course of TVA's construction work, conditions were identified by the program which were not in accordance with that program. These conditions have been evaluated and dispositioned, and it is TVA's belief that the overall welding program and welded components are acceptable. However, because of a number of recent employee concerns and other quality indicators that have challenged the adequacy of the TVA Welding Program, TVA has elected to embark on a comprehensive evaluation of the TVA Welding Program. TVA has an interagency agreement with the Department of Energy (DOE) to provide a Project Management Plan and implement that plan to assess the adequacy of the Welding Program at WBN unit 1.

This Project Management Plan defines the independent evaluation of the WBN unit 1 welding program to be performed by EG&G, the contractor DOE elected to utilize. This program is a comprehensive program to provide closure to the safety-related employee concerns, address other quality indicators, and test the overall welding program and quality of the welded structures and components.

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The reinspection program is being designed to provide, as a minimum, 95-percent confidence that 95 percent or more of the welded components in each of the (approximately 60) populations to be examined, meet or exceed design and code requirements and are suitable for service. The scope of the Weld Evaluation Project effort, in addition to the previous inspections and corrective action undertaken by TVA, will provide a high level of assurance that safety-related welded components at WBN unit 1 are suitable for service and will satisfactorily fulfill their essential safety functions.

The Project Management Plan defines the scope and methodology intended to be utilized throughout the assessment. It is important to recognize that the program was designed in the absence of statistical technical data to be obtained by the program. As this data becomes available and is periodically evaluated, adjustments to this program may result to ensure that the level of effort is appropriately applied to the critical areas. As these adjustments in response to the data are made by DOE and TVA, the Project Management Plan will be revised accordingly.

Enclosed for your review are copies of the Project Management Plan and the Quality Assurance Program to be used by EG&G to implement this assessment. As discussed with members of your staff, we will schedule a meeting in approximately two weeks to discuss this plan with you.

If you have any questions regarding this plan, please get in touch with Ralph Shell at FTS 858-2474.

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

R. L. Gridley
R. L. Gridley, Director
Nuclear Safety and Licensing

Enclosures

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