

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

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NOV 07 1986

Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Attention: Mr. B. 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

WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT (WBN) - ADEQUACY OF CONTAINMENT ISOLATION FEATURES

The purpose of this letter is to inform NRC of actions TVA has initiated for WBN related to the adequacy of containment isolation features, an issue that arose at the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant (SQN). No action by NRC is being requested at this time.

The issue involves certain containment penetrations for SQN which have isolation schemes different from those explicitly defined in 10 CFR 50, Appendix A, General Design Criteria (GDC). These penetrations have alternate isolation schemes that were described in our Final Safety Analysis Report and we believe were acceptable on "some other defined basis." My letter to you dated September 24, 1986 regarding SQN's containment isolation system provided detailed information on this topic.

TVA recognizes that this issue is directly applicable to WBN also, and accordingly, has initiated an evaluation of the containment isolation features at WBN. It is our intent to ensure that the containment isolation features are acceptable to TVA with regard to the safe and efficient operation of the plant, and also that they satisfy regulatory requirements. This evaluation will be closely coordinated with the actions being taken for SQN and related NRC actions.

The first phase of this evaluation will categorize the penetrations as follows: 1) comply with the GDCs exactly as written; 2) comply with the GDCs on a basis that is defined in the NRC Standard Review Plan; and 3) comply with the GDCs on some other basis or need further consideration. This phase of the evaluation will also determine the advisability and prudence of plant modifications, will evaluate various engineering options, and will recommend the next actions. This phase of the evaluation is currently in progress.

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The next phase will involve the final engineering design, procurement, and installation scheduling. The third phase will involve the actual installation, postmodification testing, revisions to surveillance, maintenance and operating procedures, and other related activities.

In summary, the purpose of this letter is to inform the NRC staff that TVA has initiated aggressive action on this topic and will keep you informed of progress as significant milestones are reached. TVA will report on the first phase of the evaluation by December 15, 1986.

If you have any questions on this topic, please get in touch with John McDonald, (615) 365-8524.

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY



R. Gridley, Director
Nuclear Safety and Licensing

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