

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

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MAR 13 1989

Mr. Dennis Crutchfield, Director
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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
MS 7D24
One White Flint, North
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Gentlemen:

In the Matter of)
Tennessee Valley Authority)

Docket No. 50-390
50-391

WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT - USE OF SEQUOYAH AND BROWNS FERRY LESSONS LEARNED AT WATTS BAR

In the past NRC has expressed a general concern that TVA was not making use of the lessons learned from the restart of Sequoyah at Browns Ferry and at Watts Bar. This subject was addressed with respect to Browns Ferry at a Senior Management meeting held on June 20, 1988 at NRC offices.

The purpose of this letter is to outline a few of the measures TVA is taking to ensure that the experience gained from the restart of the Sequoyah and Browns Ferry Nuclear Plants is utilized at Watts Bar.

As you are aware a Watts Bar Program Team was appointed to review the facility design and construction and considering the identified deficiencies develop a comprehensive plan for the completion, verification and startup of Watts Bar unit 1. The Chairman of this team is Mr. E. D. Fuller who lead the efforts to develop the Nuclear Performance Plans for both Sequoyah and Browns Ferry. There are several other members of the WBN Program Team that were directly involved in the restart of Sequoyah and these individuals bring with them the knowledge gained through that involvement. Specifically, the WBN Program Team includes:

- Mr. John Cox who headed the Design Baseline and Verification Program at SQN,
- Mr. Walt Horn who was the Assistant Modifications Manager at SQN, and
- Mr. Tom Ippolito who was an advisor to the Director Nuclear Safety and Licensing and has been involved in the resolution of many technical and licensing issues for both SQN and BFN.

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In addition to the direct knowledge and experience of the program team, the WBN program plan commits TVA to a review of the SQN and BFN records and experience as a step in the development of the specific Corrective Action Programs to resolve licensing and technical issues at WBN. This disciplined review of applicable SQN and BFN records provides the programmatic means by which TVA is utilizing the lessons learned.

In the licensing area, TVA is assigning Mr. Wayne Massie to provide oversight and guidance for the resolution of Civil Seismic Issues at WBN. Mr. Massie has been involved at both SQN and BFN in resolving technical and licensing issues in this complex area.

The WBN program team is presently developing the WBN Nuclear Performance Plan (Vol. 4) which will document the comprehensive plan for the resolution of technical design and licensing issues and the startup of the WBN unit 1. This NPP Vol. 4 is planned to have sections which will deal directly, and in more detail than we have here, with TVA's plans for integrating SQN and BFN experience into the specific fixes, and special programs for the startup of WBN. Additionally, the NPP Vol. 4 will address the transfer of restart and operational experience through the use of personnel previously assigned to SQN and BFN and operator training programs.

On a broader scale, TVA is presently upgrading its Nuclear Experience Review Program to improve the use of in-house and external experience when developing corrective or preventive action plans to address problems or issues at each of its Plants.

We are confident that the NPP Vol. 4 and the execution of the startup plan for WBN will demonstrate to NRC that TVA does have an effective means to transfer the lessons learned between its plants.

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY



C. H. Fox, Vice President and
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