

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

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SEP 25 1989

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Gentlemen:

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

WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT (WBN) - RESPONSE TO NRC QUESTIONS ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VENDOR INFORMATION CORRECTIVE ACTION PROGRAM (CAP) PLAN AND LONG-TERM VENDOR INFORMATION PROGRAM AS REQUIRED BY GENERIC LETTER (GL) 83-28

- References:
1. Letter from TVA to NRC dated June 27, 1989
 2. Letter from TVA to NRC dated December 14, 1988
 3. Letter from TVA to NRC dated May 31, 1985

In reference 1, TVA responded to NRC questions on the vendor information CAP. On August 8, 1989, a teleconference was held with NRC to discuss the responses. Based on this teleconference, it was determined that additional information was required on the relationship between the CAP and long-term vendor information (GL 83-28) program. This letter provides the additional information.

Condition Adverse to Quality Report (CAQR) WBP870701 documents that vendor information was not maintained complete, current, and configuration controlled at WBN. Because of the extent of the condition, TVA established a program to ensure that vendor information required to test, maintain, inspect, operate, or install essential Unit 1 safety-related equipment is correct and configuration controlled.

The vendor information CAP submitted by reference 2 documents the recovery process. This program involves a one-time contact, where possible, with these vendors to ensure that WBN has the latest applicable information. This information is then reviewed by Engineering and issued as a Revision 0, WBN, "Approved for Use", vendor manual. A set of approximately 384 manuals will be issued as the minimum set of baselined vendor manuals essential for WBN Unit 1 safety-related operation.

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Additionally, corporate standards are being developed to provide the process for the receipt, review, disposition, revision, utilization, and control of vendor information. These standards will be implemented before completion of the recovery program and will serve as recurrence control for this concern. The baseline vendor manuals and the controlling standards form the foundation of the WBN life-of-plant vendor information program.

Upon issuance of these manuals and standards, TVA considers the recovery phase of the WBN vendor information program complete and the requirements of the CAP satisfied.

For the life-of-plant WBN vendor information program, TVA has committed to follow the guidelines of the Nuclear Utility Task Action Committee (NUTAC). TVA participated in NUTAC along with virtually every other utility operating or building a nuclear power plant in the United States. The unanimous results of that committee's work were issued in March 1984 as the Vendor Equipment Technical Information Program (VETIP).

The VETIP program is considered by the utility industry as an effective way to implement the intent of Section 2.2.2 of GL 83-28. TVA is implementing the VETIP program in cooperation with the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) and other nuclear utilities.

TVA considers the letter of May 31, 1985 (Reference 3), a valid response to Section 2.2.2 of GL 83-28 and will continue to implement the program to which we have previously committed.

The WBN plan to implement the VETIP program addresses four major areas:

- * Experience and reliability review for equipment
- * Periodic contact with key safety-related vendors
- * Handling of equipment supplied by out-of-business or uncooperative vendors
- * Handling of safety-related vendor services.

Information received from the INPO Significant Event Evaluation and Information Network (SEE-IN) program, Nuclear Plant Reliability Data System (NPRDS), Nuclear Steam Supply System (NSSS) Vendor (Westinghouse Technical Bulletins), NRC (Inspection and Enforcement [IE] Notices), Nuclear Network to utilities, and, occasionally, from the equipment vendors themselves (generic problems) will be reviewed and evaluated to determine if additional attention is required for that equipment. When this information indicates that a potential problem may exist, maintenance and surveillance requirements may be increased for the equipment.

TVA has implemented a program covering receipt, control, and distribution of NSSS vendor information releases. For major NSSS vendor information sources (e.g., Westinghouse Technical Bulletins), this program provides for receipt acknowledgment of documents received. In addition, TVA is a member of the Westinghouse Owners Group.

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Currently, interfaces are planned with a small number of other key major equipment vendors to obtain design, operation, and maintenance recommendations based on their continuing product development programs. Receipt acknowledgment of documents received will be used. These other key major equipment vendors have not been identified at this time but will be identified as part of the long-term vendor information program.

Where vendors cannot be identified, have gone out of business, or will not supply information, TVA will ensure that sufficient attention is paid to equipment maintenance, replacement, and repair to compensate for the lack of vendor backup and to assure reliability, commensurate with its safety function, through the use of the VETIP program (i.e., review of industry information to determine if additional attention is required for the equipment).

TVA procurement procedures require that for safety-related procurements, consideration be given to requesting necessary technical information. The interface and division of responsibilities are defined between TVA and the nuclear and nonnuclear divisions of vendors that provide service on safety-related equipment to assure that requisite control of and applicable instructions for maintenance work on safety-related equipment are provided.

In summary, the vendor information CAP describes the recovery program to develop a set of safety-related vendor manuals for WBN Unit 1. This program establishes the foundation for but does not supersede the life-of-plant program described in the responses to Section 2.2.2 of GL 83-28.

There are no new commitments made by this submittal. Please direct any questions concerning this submittal to D. E. McCloud at (615) 365-8650.

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY


Manager, Nuclear Licensing
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cc: See page 4

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