



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

May 4, 1992

Docket Nos. 50-390  
and 50-391

Tennessee Valley Authority  
ATTN: Dr. Mark O. Medford, Vice President  
Nuclear Assurance, Licensing and Fuels  
3B Lookout Place  
1101 Market Street  
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

Dear Dr. Medford:

SUBJECT: WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT - PROPOSED APPROACH TO COMPLY WITH  
10 CFR 50.63, STATION BLACKOUT (TAC M68624 AND M68625)

In a management meeting at the Watts Bar site, the NRC staff committed to provide general comments on TVA's proposed approach to meet the requirements of 10 CFR 50.63, "Loss of All Alternating Current Power". By letter dated April 22, 1992, Mr. John Garrity of your site staff stated that TVA has considered the requirements of 10 CFR 50.63, the guidance of Regulatory Guide 1.155, "Station Blackout", and the guidance of NUMARC document 87-00, Revision 1, "Guidelines and Technical Bases For NUMARC Initiatives Addressing Station Blackout at Light Water Reactors". Mr. Garrity stated that TVA has selected the alternating current-independent approach (also known as the coping approach).

We agree with Mr. Garrity's observation that approximately half of the licensed plants have adopted the coping approach. Hence, we have no objection to TVA's proposed approach, and in the absence of technical information, have no technical concerns. However, based on Watts Bar's site and plant characteristics provided in the April 22, 1992 letter, the 4-hour required coping duration is highly dependent on the independence of offsite power grouping of I1/I2. In reviewing this grouping for other plants, we have noted that the simplified method of NUMARC 87-00, Part 1.D, fails for some configurations. Therefore, we suggest that the I1/I2 classification be confirmed using RG 1.155, and also NUREG-1032, Evaluation of Station Blackout Accidents at Nuclear Power Plants, Tables A.2 and A.3.

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Dr. Mark O. Medford

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We acknowledge TVA's commitment to submit the information in accordance with 10 CFR 50.63(c)(1) in August 1992, and recognize that the target date is well in advance of the schedule imposed by the rule (i.e., 270 days after issuance of operating license).

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Peter S. Tam, Senior Project Manager  
Project Directorate II-4  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

OFC	PDII4/LA	PDII-4/PM	SELB	SELB	SELB	PDII-4/D
NAME	MSanders <i>ms</i>	PTam:dw <i>PT</i>	AToalston <i>als</i>	AGill <i>ag</i>	FRosa	FHebdon <i>FH</i>
DATE	5/4/92	5/4/92	5/4/92	5/4/92	5/4/92	5/4/92

Watts Bar Nuclear Plant

Tennessee Valley Authority  
ATTN: Dr. Mark O. Medford

cc:

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The Honorable Johnny Powell  
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