

June 22, 1990

Docket Nos. 50-390
and 50-391

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Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, Jr.
Senior Vice President, Nuclear Power
Tennessee Valley Authority
6N 38A Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

SUBJECT: WATTS BAR, UNIT 1 AND 2 - RESPONSE TO BULLETIN 89-03 (TAC NO. 75474
AND 75475)

On November 21, 1989, the NRC staff issued Bulletin 89-03, "Potential Loss of Required Shutdown Margin During Refueling Operations." The bulletin requested that all PWR licensees and PWR construction permit holders take the actions described in the bulletin to ensure that an adequate shutdown margin is maintained during all refueling operations. To accomplish this, three actions were described:

1. Assure that any intermediate fuel assembly configuration (including control rods) intended to be used during refueling is identified and evaluated to maintain sufficient refueling boron concentration to result in a minimum shutdown margin of approximately 5%.
2. Assure that fuel loading procedures only allow those intermediate fuel assembly configurations that do not violate the allowable shutdown margin and that these procedures are strictly adhered to.
3. Assure that the staff responsible for refueling operations is trained in the procedures recommended in Item 2 above and understand the potential consequences of violating these procedures. This training should include the fundamental aspects of criticality control with enriched fuel assemblies.

By letter dated June 19, 1990, you responded to Bulletin 89-03 which indicated that programs are in place to address all three actions described above. Therefore, we consider your response to Bulletin 89-03 to be satisfactory and TAC Nos. 75474 and 75475 to be closed.

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

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