

Tennessee Valley Authority, 1101 Market Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402

FEB 02 1991

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission ATTN: Document Control Desk Washington, D.C. 20555

Gentlemen:

In the Matter of the Application of) Docket No. 50-390 Tennessee Valley Authority)

WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT (WBN) - CONSTRUCTION QUALITY IMPROVEMENT EFFORT

On January 15, 1991, TVA met with the NRC to discuss construction work at WBN. This discussion included NRC and TVA concerns about work quality and documentation which led to a stoppage of all construction work in late December 1990. TVA described quality improvements which include a review of construction and quality assurance management and personnel; a review of management processes; and a review of work procedures, work control, and quality control. This effort will identify and address the root causes of problems associated with the above items. As TVA stated in the January 15, 1991 meeting, and the NRC reiterated in its letter of January 18, 1991, we will restart construction at WBN when we have (1) identified the root causes of the work quality and control deficiencies, (2) implemented effective corrective actions for these deficiencies, (3) corrected long-term procedural and process problems, and (4) obtained NRC concurrence with resumption of construction. status of these quality improvements was discussed with representatives of the NRC Region II staff on February 1, 1991.

Some of these issues were included in NRC Inspection Reports 90-19, -24, and -27, and in inspection exit meetings for inspections 90-30 and -31. TVA considers the NRC violations and concerns addressed in these inspections to be of a common nature to the programmatic deficiencies described above. In order to aggregate the responses to these issues and pending violations with the resolution of the programmatic deficiencies,



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TVA requests an extension of the standard 30-day response time for these violations. Responses will be included as part of the documentation of the quality improvement effort. TVA will continue to communicate progress in resolving these issues to the NRC staff. In the near future, TVA will request a meeting with NRC management to discuss TVA's comprehensive plan to implement construction quality improvements, including root cause identification and corrective action.

If there are any questions, please telephone me at (615) 751-4770.

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

0. D. Kingsley

President, Generating Group

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

cc: Mr. Stewart D. Ebneter
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