

April 30, 2008

Mr. William R. Campbell, Jr.
Chief Nuclear Officer and
Executive Vice President
Tennessee Valley Authority
6A Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

SUBJECT: BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1, 2 AND 3, SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2, AND WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 - GENERIC LETTER 2008-01, "MANAGING GAS ACCUMULATION IN EMERGENCY CORE COOLING, DECAY HEAT REMOVAL, AND CONTAINMENT SPRAY SYSTEMS," RESPONSE TO EXTENSION REQUEST (TAC NOS. MD7799, MD7800, MD7801, MD7879, MD7880, AND MD7895)

Dear Mr. Campbell:

In Generic Letter (GL) 2008-01, "Managing Gas Accumulation In Emergency Core Cooling, Decay Heat Removal, And Containment Spray Systems," the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) requested licensees to submit information to demonstrate that the emergency core cooling, decay heat removal, and containment spray systems are in compliance with the applicable regulatory requirements, and that suitable design, operational, and testing control measures are in place for maintaining this compliance. The GL 2008-01 states that each licensee is requested to submit a written response within 9 months to provide requested information and that if a licensee cannot meet the requested 9-month response date, a 3-month written response is required that describes the alternative course of action that it proposes to take, including the basis for the acceptability of the proposed alternative course of action.

By letter dated April 10, 2008, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), the licensee for the Browns Ferry, Sequoyah and Watts Bar Nuclear Plants, requested a 1-month extension to the alternative 3-month response in order to further evaluate the scope and/or need for piping walkdowns to support gas void evaluations. If walkdowns inside containment are necessary, TVA may need to schedule some walkdowns during the first refueling outage after fall of 2008 for some of its operating units. This would exceed the 9-month response milestone; however, TVA has not made a final decision to go beyond the October 11, 2008, completion date. This was discussed in a telephone call with Jared Wermiel, Deputy Director, Division of Safety Systems, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, NRC, on April 8, 2008.

This letter is to formally acknowledge the requested extension to the due date for submitting the 3-month response to GL 2008-01 and to document the April 8 telephone call. The NRC staff finds that your justification to extend the due date for the 3-month written response to GL 2008-01 is acceptable, and your extension request is granted. The TVA response will be

due May 12, 2008. The NRC recognizes that TVA has voluntarily responded to GL 2008-01 for Watts Bar Nuclear Plant Unit 2 because the GL was addressed only to holders of operating licenses. On August 3, 2007, TVA notified the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation that it intended to complete construction activities at Watts Bar Unit 2. In addition to resuming unrestricted construction activities under the existing construction permit on December 3, 2007, TVA stated that it planned to complete construction and request an operating license prior to April 1, 2012.

This letter does not alter or change the required 9-month response date of October 11, 2008. The NRC staff will evaluate your alternate plans (3-month response) for responding to GL 2008-01 after receipt and will respond appropriately. If you have any questions regarding this issue, please feel free to contact Brendan Moroney, Project Manager, at (301) 415-3974.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Thomas H. Boyce, Chief
Plant Licensing Branch II-2
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-259, 50-260, 50-296, 50-327,
50-328, 50-390 and 50-391

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Sincerely,

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Plant Licensing Branch II-2
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William R. Campbell, Jr.
Tennessee Valley Authority

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WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT**

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