

May 28, 2008

Mr. Ashok Bhatnagar
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6A Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

SUBJECT: WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 2 – STATUS OF GENERIC
COMMUNICATIONS FOR REVIEW (TAC NO. MD8314)

Dear Mr. Bhatnagar:

By letters dated September 7, 2007, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) provided to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) its (1) summary of the status of TVA responses to NRC generic communications issued prior to 1995 for Watts Bar Nuclear Plant (WBN) Unit 2 and (2) its initial responses to other Bulletins and Generic Letters issued subsequent to the licensing of WBN Unit 1. Although TVA included generic communications as part of its regulatory framework for the completion of WBN Unit 2 in its letters dated January 29 and March 13, 2008, the discussion only addressed those items that were included within NUREG-0847, "Safety Evaluation Related to the Operation of Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2," and its supplements. Thus, in a letter dated March 20, 2008, TVA provided a comprehensive list of generic communications for WBN Unit 2 that TVA has reviewed and categorized regarding the status of completion, including action items under NUREG-0737, "TMI Clarification of TMI Action Plan Requirements," with Supplement 1.

The NRC staff has assessed the information presented by TVA. The detailed results of the staff's assessment of all generic communications items can be found in the enclosed Table 1. Those items that the staff considers open because either further review is needed or inspection verification of completion/implementation needs to be conducted are listed in Tables 2 and 3, respectively. Within the listing in Table 1, the NRC staff notes that the scope of items characterized as "Not Applicable" includes: (1) items that, due to technical specifications, equipment, design, specific circumstances or special exemptions, have a clear and undeniable status of Non-Applicability. (i.e., boiling-water reactor, Babcock and Wilcox design, etc.), (2) items that apply or relate to WBN Unit 2 but that do not require any further action or response on behalf of WBN Unit 2.

Although many of the items of generic communications have already been documented and/or otherwise resolved, the NRC staff has determined that there may be circumstances that could result in the need to re-open a previously closed topic. In addition, the staff has found that for certain topics of generic communication, it does not agree with TVA's determination that those topics are closed or not applicable for WBN Unit 2. These items are presented in Table 4. Thus, the staff will need further information from TVA to reconcile the differences between TVA's determination and the staff's assessment. If TVA is able to submit information that can substantiate the correct status, the NRC staff will reassess the information and, if appropriate, make the necessary changes to its topic listings.

In addition to reconciling the status differences as noted above, TVA should maintain the information in its tables of generic communications status as actions are completed or resolved and proper documentation has been submitted to the NRC staff for review. Within 60 days of the date of this letter, TVA is requested to provide its status reconciliation and, at least every 6 months thereafter, provide an update to the status of all generic communications, including references to closure documentation, as appropriate. The NRC staff will use this information to verify the completion of actions and to coordinate the need for independent validation of implementation through inspections.

If you have questions regarding the staff's assessment or actions requested of TVA, please contact me at 301-415-1457.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Patrick D. Milano, Senior Project Manager
Watts Bar Special Projects Branch
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-391

Enclosure:
Tables 1 – 4, Generic Communications Status
for TVA Watts Bar Unit 2

cc w/encls: See next page

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WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT

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Legend for Tables 1, 2, and 3

- C** **Closed.** Previous staff review of NUREG-0847 and/or Supplements has closed the item either for both units at WBN or explicitly for WBN Unit 2.
- CI** **Closed/Implementation.** Staff has approved either for both units at WBN or explicitly for WBN Unit 2; there is no change to the approved design; and implementation is recommended through Regional Inspection.
- CT** **Closed/Technical Specification.** Item has been approved either for both units at WBN or explicitly for WBN Unit 2; however, a change to the original approval requires submittal of the Technical Specifications and staff review.
- O** **Open.** No action or documentation is provided that shows that TVA staff has reviewed the item for WBN Unit 2.
- OT** **Open/Technical Specifications.** No action or documentation is provided that shows that TVA staff has reviewed the item for WBN Unit 2, and the resolution is through submittal of a Technical Specification.
- OV** **Open/Validation.** The proposed approach has been approved for WBN Unit 1; the same approach used is proposed for WBN Unit 2 without change.
- A-O** **Applicable, therefore Open (A-O).** Items that have been categorized as non-applicable but the staff has found to be applicable. The scope of items that fall under the category of Applicable, therefore Open will include:
- Items that have been categorized as Not Applicable by TVA but the staff has reviewed and considers additional information is required. These items may be considered closed with the submittal of additional information that substantiates the review.
- NA** **Not Applicable.** The scope of items that the NRC staff has reviewed and determined that fall under the category of Not Applicable will include:
- Items that, due to technical specifications, equipment, design, specific circumstances or special exemptions, have a clear and unquestionable status of Non-Applicability (i.e., boiling-water reactor, Babcock and Wilcox design, etc.).
- Items that apply or relate to WBN 2 but clearly do not require any further action or response on behalf of TVA for WBN Unit 2.