

January 16, 2009

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: WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 1 - REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL  
INFORMATION – LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST – TECHNICAL  
SPECIFICATION CHANGE FOR AUXILIARY FEEDWATER AUTO-START  
UPON TRIP OF THE TURBINE DRIVEN MAIN FEEDWATER PUMPS  
(TAC MD9713)

Dear Mr. Campbell:

By letter dated September 18, 2008, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) proposed a license amendment to change the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 1 (WBN-1), Technical Specifications (TSs). The proposed request is to revise the WBN-1 TSs to modify Mode 1 and 2 Applicability for Function 6.e of TS Table 3.3.2-1, "Engineered Safety Feature Actuation System Instrumentation," and to revise the limiting condition for operation 3.3.2, Condition J, to be consistent with WBN-1 design bases.

The staff has reviewed the information provided by TVA and has determined that additional information is required to complete its evaluation of the proposed license amendment. The specific questions are detailed in the enclosed request for additional information (RAI). Based on discussions with your staff, we understand that you plan to respond to the enclosed RAI within 30 days of the date of this letter.

If you have any questions regarding this issue, please feel free to contact me at (301) 415-3100.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

John G. Lamb, Senior Project Manager  
Watts Bar Special Projects Branch  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-390

Enclosure:  
RAI

cc w/encl: Distribution via Listserv

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SUBJECT: WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 1 - REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST – TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION CHANGE FOR AUXILIARY FEEDWATER AUTO-START UPON TRIP OF THE TURBINE DRIVEN MAIN FEEDWATER PUMPS (TAC MD9713)

Dear Mr. Campbell:

By letter dated September 18, 2008, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) proposed a license amendment to change the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 1 (WBN-1), Technical Specifications (TSs). The proposed request is to revise the WBN-1 TSs to modify Mode 1 and 2 Applicability for Function 6.e of TS Table 3.3.2-1, "Engineered Safety Feature Actuation System Instrumentation," and to revise the limiting condition for operation 3.3.2, Condition J, to be consistent with WBN-1 design bases.

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REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
REGARDING LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST – TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION CHANGE  
FOR AUXILIARY FEEDWATER AUTO-START UPON TRIP OF THE TURBINE DRIVEN MAIN  
FEEDWATER PUMPS TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS REVISIONS  
WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 1  
TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY  
DOCKET NO. 50-390

By letter dated September 18, 2008 (ML082670543), the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), the licensee for Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 1 (WBN-1), submitted a request to modify Modes 1 and 2 Applicability for Function 6.e of TS Table 3.3.2-1, “Engineered Safety Feature Actuation System Instrumentation,” and to revise the limiting condition for operation (LCO) 3.3.2, Condition J, to be consistent with WBN-1 design bases.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing this request, and has determined that additional information is necessary for the staff to complete its review, as discussed below.

Table 3.3.2-1 of LCO 3.3.2 currently contains Function 6.e, which actuates the Auxiliary Feedwater on a trip of all Main Feedwater (MFW) Pumps. For Mode 1, the license amendment request (LAR) proposes to add a Note (i) to this Function that states the following:

Entry into Condition J may be suspended for up to 4 hours when placing the second turbine-driven main feedwater (TDMFW) pump in service or removing one of two TDMFW pumps from service.

Section 4.5 of the LAR provides the licensee’s justification for the addition of this Note. Section 4.5 states:

Entering into an LCO Action to place a system into service or remove a system from service is atypical without express allowance in the TS (e.g., the allowance associated with emergency core cooling system and low temperature overpressure protection system). This change is limited to a short period of time (4 hours) to allow operational flexibility to align the TDMFW pumps. This time is well within the allowed outage time of 48 hours as currently provided for one inoperable channel.

Given the justification, it is still unclear to the NRC staff why the 4-hour allowance is needed since the 48-hour time period is far greater than the 4 hours claimed to be needed.

Enclosure

Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) Section 50.36(c)(2)(i) states:

Limiting conditions for operation are the lowest functional capability or performance levels of equipment required for safe operation of the facility. When a limiting condition for operation of a nuclear reactor is not met, the licensee shall shut down the reactor or follow any remedial action permitted by the technical specifications until the condition can be met.

Please explain the justification for why the 4-hour allowance to suspend entry into Condition J should be granted, as permitted under 10 CFR 50.36(c)(2)(i), given the 48-hour completion time.