

April 28, 2009

Mr. Ashok S. Bhatnagar
Senior Vice President
Nuclear Generation Development
and Construction
Tennessee Valley Authority
6A Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

SUBJECT: WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 2 – REQUEST FOR ADDITIOANL
INFORMATION ON PROGRAMS FOR LICENSING BASIS PRESERVATION
AND CONSTRUCTION REFURBISHMENT (TAC NO. MD6581)

Dear Mr. Bhatnagar:

In a letter dated December 9, 2008, to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) provided responses to two commitments regarding licensing basis preservation and construction refurbishment programs at Watts Bar Nuclear Plant (WBN), Unit 2. Specifically, TVA submitted the New Generation Development and Construction Procedure PP-20, "Unit 2 Licensing Basis Preservation," which describes the methods or processes for determining potential changes that could affect the Unit 2 licensing basis as design and construction activities progress. Also, TVA submitted Procedure 25402-000-GPP-0000-TI216, "Watts Bar Unit 2 Completion Project Refurbishment Program," which addresses examinations, refurbishment, restorations, and testing required prior to issuance of the Unit 2 operating license in order to assure that systems, structures, and components (SSCs) meet or exceed original specifications. The lay-up activities for many of these SSCs were terminated for a period of time prior to resuming construction activities.

The NRC staff has reviewed your submittals and finds that they do not provide sufficient detail for us to conclude that the specified actions are sufficient to address the purpose of the programs. Regarding the Unit 2 Licensing Basis Preservation Program, the staff requests that TVA provide a more detailed summary of the process steps used to implement each of the screening questions, any corresponding evaluation criteria, and documentation of the results, and TVA's plans for assessing the performance of the overall process. Regarding the completion project refurbishment program, the NRC staff requests that TVA provide a discussion of the rationale for the selection of components to be refurbished based on the expected degradation mechanisms and the guidance that will be used to insure the objective and consistent application of refurbishment activities.

A. Bhatnagar

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We suggest that you schedule a public meeting with us to discuss these programs, including how TVA plans to address the issues raised in this letter including program implementation and the criteria to assess program goals. The NRC recommends that this meeting take place before TVA prepares its written response to the specific questions in this request for additional information. This will allow the NRC staff to better understand the overall programs and the level of detail that will be needed to complete the staff's evaluation.

If you should have any questions, 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

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A. Bhatnagar

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