



Tennessee Valley Authority, 1101 Market Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

December 10, 2009

10 CFR 50.4
10 CFR 50 Appendix E

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant
Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-33, DPR-52, and DPR-68
NRC Docket Nos. 50-259, 50-260, and 50-296

Sequoyah Nuclear Plant
Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-77 and DPR-79
NRC Docket Nos. 50-327 and 50-328

Watts Bar Nuclear Plant
Facility Operating License No. NPF-90
NRC Docket No. 50-390

Subject: **Emergency Response Data System Upgrade**

As recognized by the NRC in a Federal Register Notice that was issued on July 20, 2009 (74FRN35208), TVA has been participating in a voluntary program with NRC to test the use of virtual private network (VPN) technology in transmitting plant information to the ERDS server.

Title 10 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 50, Appendix E, Section VI.3.b, requires that licensees notify the NRC at least 30 days prior to any hardware or software changes that could affect the transmission format and communication protocol to the Emergency Response Data System (ERDS). The purpose of this letter is to notify the NRC that TVA began to work with NRC to convert to VPM technology in June 2008 by participating in and completing the initial ERDS Phase II prototype testing. Since receiving the final configured VPN device from the NRC in September 2009 and subsequently installing the device, TVA intends to replace the existing modems with VPN devices for the ERDS as soon after November 30, 2009, as both parties can support the required installation testing.

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There are no regulatory commitments in this letter.

If you have any questions concerning this information, please telephone
Fred Mashburn at (423) 751-8817.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. M. Krich", written over the printed name.

R. M. Krich
Vice President
Nuclear Licensing

cc:

NRC Regional Administrator - Region II
NRC Senior Resident Inspector - Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant
NRC Senior Resident Inspector - Sequoyah Nuclear Plant
NRC Senior Resident Inspector - Watts Bar Nuclear Plant