August 7, 2010

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 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM THE VESSELS INTERNALS INTEGRITY BRANCH REGARDING PRESERVICE INSPECTION PROGRAM PLAN (TAC NO. ME3113)

Dear Mr. Bhatnagar:

By letter dated June 17, 2010 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML101680561), the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) submitted the Preservice Inspection Program Plan (PSI) as part of the Final Safety Analysis Report for Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 2. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has reviewed the information provided by TVA.

In an effort to complete the NRC staff review, enclosed is a request for additional information (RAI) regarding the PSI Program Plan.

A response is required by October 1, 2010.

If you should have any questions, please contact me at 301-415-2048.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Justin C. Poole, Project Manager
Watts Bar Special Projects Branch
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-391

Enclosure: RAI

cc w/encl: Distribution via Listserv

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ADAMS Accession No. ML102430175 *via memo

OFFICE	LPWB/PM	LPWB/LA	CVIB/BC	OGC	LPWB/BC
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DATE	09 / 01 /10	08 / 31/10	8/30/10	09 / 03 /10	09 / 07 /10

OFFICIAL AGENCY RECORD

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFROMATION

WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 2

PRESERVICE INSPECTION PROGRAM PLAN

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

DOCKET NO. 50-391

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has reviewed and evaluated the information submitted by Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA, the licensee) in its letter dated June 17, 2010 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML101680561), in which the licensee proposed it's Preservice Inspection (PSI) Program Plan in accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Section 50.55a for Watts Bar Nuclear Plant (WBN), Unit 2. The licensee requested NRC to review its proposed PSI Program Plan for WBN, Unit 2 to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME Code), Section XI inspection requirements. The applicable ASME Code, Section XI code of record for the WBN, Unit 2 PSI Program Plan is the 2001 Edition through the 2003 Addenda.

1. In the licensee's submittal dated June 17, 2010, on pages 10 and 11 of 77, in Section 3.8.3 it was noted by the licensee that it will substitute alternative examination methods, or newly developed techniques, by invoking alternatives as outlined in ASME Code, Section XI, IWA-2240. The NRC Staff has found that some licensees have used IWA-2240 to implement ASME Code, Section XI, Appendix VIII techniques in lieu of the ASME Code required examination techniques without submitting an alternative pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3).

   The NRC staff recognizes that TVA did submit an alternative for the use of ASME Code, Section XI, Appendix VIII for the examination of the reactor pressure vessel (RPV) shell-to-flange weld. However, clarify your intention on the use of ASME Code, Section XI, paragraph IWA-2240 and confirm that the subject paragraph will not be invoked for alternatives such as using ASME Code, Section XI, Appendix VIII as a substitute for other ASME Code requirements (e.g., RPV dome-to-flange weld or any other components) or the use of ASME Code, Section XI, ultrasonic examination requirements are used in lieu of ASME Code, Section III radiography requirements without seeking NRC approval of the alternative in accordance with 10 CFR 50.55a(3).

2. Several components in WBN, Unit 2 *PSI Program Plan IWB Summary Tables,* under the column *Component Compliance* contained in pages 26 through 36 of 77 are noted as None Applicable (N/A) for WBN, Unit 2. Clarify as to why these components are N/A for WBN, Unit 2 (e.g., the components are common with WBN, Unit 1, the components were examined or tested in the manufacture's fabrication shop, etc.).

Enclosure