UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

April 22, 2011

Mr. R. M. Krich
Vice President, Nuclear Licensing
Tennessee Valley Authority
3R Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

SUBJECT: WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 1 – REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST FOR CARBON DIOXIDE FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM INSTALLED IN AUXILIARY INSTRUMENT ROOM (TAC NO. ME2532)

Dear Mr. Krich:

By letter dated October 30, 2009 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML093080377), Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) requested a license amendment concerning a change to the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 1 fire protection program requirements. Specifically, this involves changing the design basis of the total flooding automatic carbon dioxide (CO_2) fire suppression system in the Auxiliary Instrument Room from a 50-percent CO_2 concentration to a 45-percent concentration, retaining the currently required 15-minute hold time to suppression a fire.

In order to complete its review, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) requires additional information. Enclosed is the NRC staff's request for additional information (RAI). Based on discussions with your staff on April 22, 2011, we understand that you plan to respond to the enclosed RAI by May 24, 2011.

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

Sincerely,

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: Distribution via Listserv

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

REGARDING THE LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST FOR

THE CARBON DIOXIDE FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM

INSTALLED IN THE AUXILIARY INSTRUMENT ROOM

WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 1

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

DOCKET NO. 50-390

By letter dated October 30, 2009 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML093080377), Tennessee Valley Authority requested a license amendment concerning a change to the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant (WBN), Unit 1 fire protection program requirements. Specifically, this involves changing the design basis of the total flooding automatic carbon dioxide (CO_2) fire suppression system in the Auxiliary Instrument Room from a 50-percent CO_2 concentration to a 45-percent concentration, retaining the currently required 15-minute hold time to suppression a fire.

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RAI

The National Fire Protection Association 12, 1973 Edition, Section 2421 (Code of Record) for WBN Unit 1 installation, Table 6, "Flooding Factors for Specific Hazards," specifies flooding factors for specific hazards. Confirm the flooding factor (12 cubic feet per pound (ft^3/lb) CO_2 or 0.083 lb CO_2/ft^3) used to calculate the quantity of the CO_2 to protect the Auxiliary Instrument Room. Provide the calculated quantity in pounds of CO_2 to be injected into WBN Unit 1 Auxiliary Instrument Room.

Enclosure

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/RA by PMilano for/

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