



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

July 18, 2012

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

SUBJECT: BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 2 – REVIEW OF REQUESTED
LICENSING ACTION CONCERNING RELIEF REQUEST 2-ISI-29
(TAC NO. ME8854)

Dear Mr. Shea:

By letter dated May 25, 2012, the Tennessee Valley Authority (the licensee) submitted a relief request (RR) 2-ISI-29 for Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant Unit 2. The proposed RR if approved would allow the licensee to perform ultrasonic testing to the maximum extent practical for selected full penetration austenitic stainless and dissimilar metal piping welds. The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of this relief request. The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review. The acceptance review is also intended to identify whether the application has any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements or the licensing basis of the plant.

Pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CR), Section 50.55a(g)(5)(iii), the licensee had until May 24, 2012 to notify the NRC of the inability to meet the ASME Code requirements for these examinations which were completed in the third 10-year inspection cycle (May 25, 2001 to May 24, 2011). On May 29, 2012, it was determined that the licensee had not requested relief for the weld examinations by the 12 month cutoff date of May 24, 2012.

Because of the failure to request relief consistent with the 10 CFR 50.55a requirements, the NRC staff's review will be limited to a determination of the adequacy of the achieved coverage as it relates to the functionality and structural integrity of the affected piping and associated systems. The NRC staff will be in contact should additional information be needed to support this review.

J. Shea

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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (301) 415-2315.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Eva A. Brown, Senior Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch II-2
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-260

cc: Distribution via Listserv

J. Shea

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Eva A. Brown, Senior Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch II-2
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