



Tennessee Valley Authority, Post Office Box 2000, Spring City, Tennessee 37381-2000

August 13, 2013

10 CFR 50.4

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

Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2
Facility Operating License No. NPF-90
Construction Permit No. CPPR-92
NRC Docket Nos. 50-390 and 50-391

Subject: WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT (WBN) UNITS 1 AND 2 - GENERIC LETTER (GL) 88-17 - RESPONSE CLARIFICATION

- References:
1. TVA letter to NRC dated February 9, 1998, "Watts Bar Nuclear Plant (WBN) Unit 1 - 10 CFR 50.59(b)(2), Changes, Tests and Experiments Summary Report"
 2. NRC letter to TVA dated March 8, 1995, "Watts Bar Unit 1 - Revised Response to Generic Letter 88-17 Regarding Loss of Decay Heat Removal (TAC M69792)"
 3. TVA letter to NRC dated February 7, 1995, "Watts Bar Nuclear Plant (WBN) Unit 1 and 2 - Generic Letter 88-17, Loss of Decay Heat Removal - Revised Response to Item 4 (TAC No. M69792)"

This letter revises one of the two methods TVA will use to provide reactor coolant system (RCS) narrow range water level indications during reduced inventory conditions.

In the revised response to GL 88-17 (Reference 3), TVA stated the following:

"Narrow Range Level Indication - Two independent, RCS water level indications will be used whenever the RCS is in a reduced inventory condition. An ultrasonic level measurement system (ULMS) and a differential pressure type level instrument loop will be utilized. Both instruments will have a range of indication that encompasses the inside diameter of the hot leg pipe. Indication with visible and audible alarms will be provided in the main control room for the differential pressure type level instrument loop. The ULMS

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will have indication with visible and audible alarm capability in the Main Control Room on the emergency response facility data system computer."

NRC accepted this approach in Reference 2.

However, in 1997, Unit 1, under 10 CFR 50.59 (Summary Report provided by Reference 1), switched from the ULMS to a portable reactor vessel level monitoring system (Mansell Level Monitoring System [MLMS]). The MLMS utilizes redundant pressure transducers mounted at a reference location (pressurizer vent and reactor head vent) and at a liquid head location (loop #1 crossover leg drain line). The pressure information from these points is transmitted to the Control Room, processed by a computer dedicated to the MLMS, and displayed to the Control Room operators in FEET and INCHES to a resolution of 0.1 inches of water. The display system also provides an operator interface where the required information can be entered to set the proper zero range, level alarm setpoints, temperature, and boron concentration. This system has been proven to be a more accurate and reliable system than the ultrasonic system.

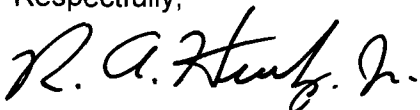
For WBN Unit 2, instead of completing the originally planned ULMS, TVA will utilize the same type of MLMS as Unit 1. The MLMS is installed in the Control Room prior to going into reduced inventory operations. Installation, use, and removal of the MLMS is performed in accordance with General Operating Procedure GO-10, "Reactor Coolant System Drain and Fill Operations." The MLMS provides narrow range level indication and alarms in the Control Room. The alarm setpoints for the MLMS are set in accordance with GO-10 and are dependent on the plant evolution in progress. This change is reflected in Amendment 110 of the Unit 2 Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR) being submitted by separate correspondence.

The enclosure provides the commitment made in this letter.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on the 13th day of August, 2013.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (423) 365-1260 or Gordon Arent at (423) 365-2004.

Respectfully,



Raymond A. Hruby, Jr.
General Manager, Technical Services
Watts Bar Unit 2

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Enclosure:

1. List of Commitments

cc (Enclosure):

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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NRC Resident Inspector Unit 2
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**WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT (WBN) UNITS 1 AND 2
GENERIC LETTER (GL) 88-17 - RESPONSE CLARIFICATION**

LIST OF COMMITMENTS

1. Each WBN unit will update their respective Safety Analysis Report (i.e., UFSAR for Unit 1 and FSAR for Unit 2) to reflect this different means of providing two different monitoring systems.