



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

September 25, 2015

Mr. Joseph W. Shea
Vice President, Nuclear Licensing
Tennessee Valley Authority
P.O. Box 2000
Soddy-Daisy, TN 37384

SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF RENEWED FACILITY OPERATING LICENSES NUMBERS
DPR-77 and DPR-79 FOR SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

Dear Mr. Shea:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued the renewed facility operating license Nos. DPR-77 and DPR-79 for the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 (SQN). The NRC issued the renewed facility operating licenses based on the staff's review of your application dated January 7, 2013, as supplemented by letters submitted to the NRC through August 28, 2015. The technical specifications for SQN were administratively updated as a result of our review.

Enclosure 1 contains the Unit 1 renewed facility operating license No. DPR-77 with attached Technical Specifications, and associated Appendices A, B, and C.

Enclosure 2 contains the Unit 2 renewed facility operating license No. DPR-79 with attached Technical Specifications, and associated Appendices A, and B.

Renewed facility operating license No. DPR-77 expires at midnight September 17, 2040, for Unit 1. Renewed Facility Operating License No. DPR-79 expires at midnight September 15, 2041, for Unit 2.

In 2002, the NRC authorized Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to insert Tritium Production Burnable Absorber Rods (TPBAR)s in the SQN core and required this authorization to be implemented prior to starting up from the outage where TVA inserts TPBARs in the SQN core, provided that there have been no changes to SQN that materially change the bases for this authorization. Following this authorization, the NRC immediately updated the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) version of the SQN operating licenses with the related TPBAR requirements, whereas TVA decided to postpone updating its version of the SQN operating licenses until just before it was ready to insert TPBARs in the SQN core. In 2012, while TVA had still not inserted TPBAR in the SQN core or updated its version of the SQN operating licenses, the NRC authorized TVA to use AREVA W17 fuel. This in effect materially changed the bases for the TPBAR authorization. In 2013, TVA submitted a license amendment request (LAR) to convert its SQN operating licenses to the improved technical specifications, which action would remove from the SQN operating licenses all TPBAR references.

The NRC staff is currently evaluating this LAR, and it expects to reach a determination on the LAR by the end of September 2015. Since the NRC is currently evaluating an LAR that would remove all TPBAR references from the SQN operating licenses and make the ADAMS and TVA versions of the SQN operating licenses consistent, no further action to reconcile this version difference is necessary at this time. This amendment did not materially change the content of the LRA.

The technical safety basis for issuing the renewed licenses is set forth in "Safety Evaluation Report Related to the License Renewal of the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2," published in January 2015. Subsequently, in September 2015, a supplement to the Safety Evaluation Report was issued to address newly submitted information and document further reviews related to the loose parts of the surveillance capsules in the Unit 1 reactor vessel. The Safety Evaluation Report and Supplement 1 were issued as NUREG-2181 in July 2015 and September 2015, respectively. The results of the environmental reviews related to the issuance of the renewed licenses are given in NUREG-1437, Supplement 53 "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants, Supplement 53 Regarding Sequoyah Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2," published in March 2015.

Enclosure 3 is a copy of the related *Federal Register* notice of issuance of the renewed licenses. The original has been sent to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Christopher G. Miller, Director
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-327 and 50-328

Enclosures:

1. Renewed Facility Operating license
No. DPR-77
2. Renewed Facility Operating license
No. DPR-79
3. *Federal Register Notice*

cc: Listserv

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No. DPR-77
2. Renewed Facility Operating license
No. DPR-79
3. *Federal Register Notice*

- ML15098A052 (package)**
- ML15097A454 (letter)**
- ML15100A046 (Unit 1 License)**
- ML15100A049 (Unit 2 License)**
- ML15098A016 (FRN)**

cc: Listserv

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DATE	9/ 2 /15	9/ 10 /15	5/ 17 /15	5/ 13 /15
OFFICE	BC:RPB2:DLR	DORL	BC:RPB1:DLR	OGC NLO with edits
NAME	JDanna	SHelton	YDiaz-Sanabria	BMizuno
DATE	8/ 11 /15	8/ 19 /15	8/ 26 /15	9/ 08 /15
OFFICE	D:NRR	D:DLR		
NAME	WDean	CMiller		
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Letter to J. Shea from C. Miller dated September 25, 2015

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DPR-77 and DPR-79 FOR SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

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Beth.Mizuno@nrc.gov

Brian.Harris@nrc.gov

John.Pelchat@nrc.gov

Gena.Woodruff@nrc.gov

Siva.Lingam@nrc.gov

Wesley.Deschaine@nrc.gov

Galen.Smith@nrc.gov

Scott.Shaeffler@nrc.gov

Jeffrey.Hamman@nrc.gov

Craig.Kontz@nrc.gov

Caudle.Julian@nrc.gov

Generette.Lloyd@epa.gov

Gmadkins@tva.gov

Clwilson@tva.gov

Hlee0@tva.gov

Dllundy@tva.gov