



1101 Market Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402

CNL-17-060

May 10, 2017

10 CFR 50.4  
10 CFR 50.90

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

Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 1  
Facility Operating License No. NPF-90  
NRC Docket No. 50-390

Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 2  
Facility Operating License No. NPF-96  
NRC Docket No. 50-391

Subject: **Withdrawal of Watts Bar Nuclear Plant (WBN) Unit 1 and Unit 2 - Non-Voluntary License Amendment Request to Modify and Clarify Technical Specification 3.6.15, "Shield Building," Condition B Note (WBN-TS-16-17)**

- References:
1. Letter from TVA to NRC, CNL-16-147, "Watts Bar Nuclear Plant (WBN) Unit 1 and Unit 2 - Non-Voluntary License Amendment Request to Modify and Clarify Technical Specification 3.6.15, 'Shield Building,' Condition B Note (WBN-TS-16-17)," dated March 6, 2017 (ML17065A301)
  2. NRC letter to TVA, "Watts Bar Nuclear Plant – NRC Integrated Inspection Report 05000390/2016001, 05000391/2016001," dated April 7, 2016 (ML16098A323)
  3. E-mail from NRC to TVA, "Watts Bar Acceptance Review Draft Supplemental Information Request - LAR to Revise Technical Specification 3.6.15 Shield Building (CAC Nos. MF9393 and MF9394)," dated April 19, 2017
  4. NRC Electronic Mail to TVA, "Watts Bar, Units 1 and 2 - Final Request for Additional Information Concerning Request to Amend ABGTS TS (CAC Nos. MF8526 and MF8527)," dated March 16, 2017

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is hereby withdrawing a non-voluntary license amendment request (LAR) for Watts Bar Nuclear Plant (WBN), Units 1 and 2 submitted in Reference 1 that proposed to revise the WBN Unit 1 and WBN Unit 2 TS 3.6.15, "Shield Building," Condition B Note and associated Bases, and delete the expired footnotes associated with the WBN Unit 1 TS 3.6.15 Condition B Note.

The current Condition B Note in TS 3.6.15 states:

"Annulus pressure requirement is not applicable during ventilating operations, required annulus entries, or Auxiliary Building isolations not exceeding 1 hour in duration."

The Condition B Note associated with TS 3.6.15, Condition B, had been misinterpreted such that the one hour only applied to Auxiliary Building isolations and not to ventilating operations and required annulus entries thereby possibly allowing the Shield Building pressure requirements to be bypassed for an indefinite period. In Reference 2, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) stated that the TS 3.6.15, Condition B constitutes a nonconservative TS, in accordance with NRC Administrative Letter (AL) 98-10. Therefore, in Reference 1, TVA submitted a non-voluntary LAR to revise the Condition B Note to clarify that the one hour applied to all the activities covered by the Condition B Note, relocate this Note to WBN Unit 1 and Unit 2 TS Surveillance Requirement (SR) 3.6.15.1, and delete the expired footnotes associated with the Note in WBN Unit 1 TS 3.6.15 Condition B. Since there were no technical changes associated with this LAR, TVA considered the LAR administrative in nature.

During the acceptance review of this non-voluntary LAR, NRC issued a draft request for supplemental information (Reference 3), questioning the current licensing basis for the TS 3.6.15 Condition B Note and requesting TVA to provide administrative controls and dose assessments to support the one-hour duration in the TS 3.6.15 Condition B Note. During a conference call with the NRC on April 28, 2017, regarding this draft request for supplemental information, NRC indicated that they desired the TS 3.6.15 Condition B to be modified similar to those changes requested by the NRC in Reference 4 for a separate LAR for WBN.

Based on the information requested by the NRC, TVA has determined that it is not possible to supplement the LAR within the required 13 working days following the conference call with NRC on April 28, 2017. Therefore, TVA hereby withdraws the non-voluntary LAR submitted in Reference 1. As noted in Reference 1, TVA has taken corrective actions to ensure that the TS 3.6.15 Condition B Note is being properly applied including a revision to the Bases for TS 3.6.15 to clarify the applicability of the Condition B Note. As a result, TVA will revisit the need for a LAR.

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There are no new regulatory commitments associated with this submittal. Please address any questions regarding this request to Edward D. Schrull at (423) 751-3850.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on this 10th day of May 2017.

Respectfully,



J. W. Shea  
Vice President, Nuclear Licensing

cc:

NRC Regional Administrator - Region II  
NRC Senior Resident Inspector - Watts Bar Nuclear Plant  
NRC Project Manager – Watts Bar Nuclear Plant  
Director, Division of Radiological Health - Tennessee State Department of  
Environment and Conservation