



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

April 1, 1992

Docket Nos. 50-259  
and 50-296

Senior Vice President, Nuclear Power  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
3B Lookout Place  
1101 Market Street  
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

Dear Sir:

SUBJECT: RETURN TO SERVICE OF BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 3  
(TAC NO. M76753)

By letters dated January 9 and July 10, 1991 (References 1 and 2), the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) described its proposed plan for the return to service of Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant (BFN), Units 1 and 3. This letter concurs with the scope of the plans provided by TVA. It should be noted that the implementation of this plan will be verified by NRC inspection prior to restart of either unit.

This letter also requests that TVA provide additional details regarding the Operational Readiness Review of BFN Units 1 and 3, and the disposition of employee concerns prior to restart.

RESTART PROGRAM SCOPE

TVA's plan as described in References 1 and 2 included programs and regulatory commitments (e.g., Generic Letters, Bulletins, TMI Action Items, and Unresolved Safety Issues) which TVA intends to complete prior to the restart of BFN Units 1 and 3. The NRC staff confirmed that TVA has provided a complete listing of the outstanding regulatory issues requiring resolution for BFN Units 1 and 3 restart. However, nothing in this letter should be construed by TVA as staff approval to obviate any regulatory requirements or prior TVA commitments.

TVA has not identified, and the staff is not aware of, any additional problems applicable to Units 1 and 3 that are outside the previously defined scope. However, as work progresses on Units 1 and 3, TVA or the staff may identify additional problems for which new programs will need to be developed. Such programs should be submitted to the NRC for review and approval.

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Many of the programs identified by TVA's plan to return BFN Units 1 and 3 to service have been previously reviewed and approved by the staff as part of the BFN Unit 2 restart effort. The staff has concluded that programs already completed as part of the BFN Unit 2 recovery, or that will be conducted in accordance with the BFN Unit 2 criteria and implementation precedents, are acceptable for the restart of BFN Units 1 and 3. Staff review is ongoing for those programs (e.g., special programs) which have been changed from the BFN Unit 2 precedent. The staff concludes that when all outstanding programs, regulatory requirements, and applicable TVA commitments have been fully implemented in a manner consistent with NRC staff safety evaluations, and verified by NRC inspections, TVA will be in a position to restart and operate BFN Units 1 and 3 in a safe and responsible manner.

#### SEPTEMBER 17, 1985 REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The staff has also reviewed the request for information contained in Reference 3 (the "10 CFR 50.54(f) letter") for applicability to BFN Units 1 and 3. TVA's response to each item requested in the 10 CFR 50.54(f) letter was documented in Appendix C of the safety evaluation for BFN Unit 2 restart (Reference 4). As noted above, TVA is applying the same programs and improvements to BFN Units 1 and 3 that were approved and implemented for BFN Unit 2, or is obtaining prior staff approval of program changes. Since the BFN Units 1 and 3 programs are substantially the same as the BFN Unit 2 programs, the staff concludes that TVA has provided the information requested by the 10 CFR 50.54(f) letter for BFN Units 1 and 3.

Please note that while the information requested by Reference 3 has been provided for BFN Units 1 and 3, NRC approval is still required prior to restart of either unit. This requirement is consistent with a commitment by TVA given in Reference 2.

#### OPERATIONAL READINESS PROGRAM

In response to requests from the NRC in References 5 and 6, TVA described its proposed Operational Readiness Program in Reference 7. Following initial staff review, the NRC staff is concerned that the proposed program for BFN Units 1 and 3 may not be as effective as that performed for Unit 2. To improve our understanding of this issue, the staff proposes a meeting to discuss your plans in greater detail.

#### DISPOSITION OF EMPLOYEE CONCERNS

The staff is also interested in the disposition of issues identified by the Employee Concerns Program and Employee Concerns Special Program. Therefore, TVA is requested to submit a list of these issues for BFN Units 1 and 3, identifying those that will not be resolved prior to the restart of each unit.

This requirement affects 9 or fewer respondents and, therefore, is not subject to Office of Management and Budget review under P.L. 96-511.

Please contact Joseph F. Williams, Browns Ferry Unit 3 Project Manager, at (301) 504-1470 if you have any questions regarding these issues.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Steven A. Varga, Director  
Division of Reactor Projects I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:  
Reference Listing

cc w/enclosure:  
See next page

SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCE

|      |                             |                              |                          |           |
|------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| OFC  | PD II-4LA                   | PD II-4PM <i>[Signature]</i> | PD II-4PM                | PD II-4PD |
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| DATE | 3/17/92                     | 3/17/92                      | 3/17/92                  | 3/17/92   |

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|------|---------|--------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| OFC  | RII*    | DRPE:ADR II* | DRPE: <i>[Signature]</i>  | D:DST <i>[Signature]</i> | D:DET <i>[Signature]</i> |
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| DTE  | 3/6/92  | 3/4/92       | 4/1/92                    | 3/12/92                  | 4/1/92                   |



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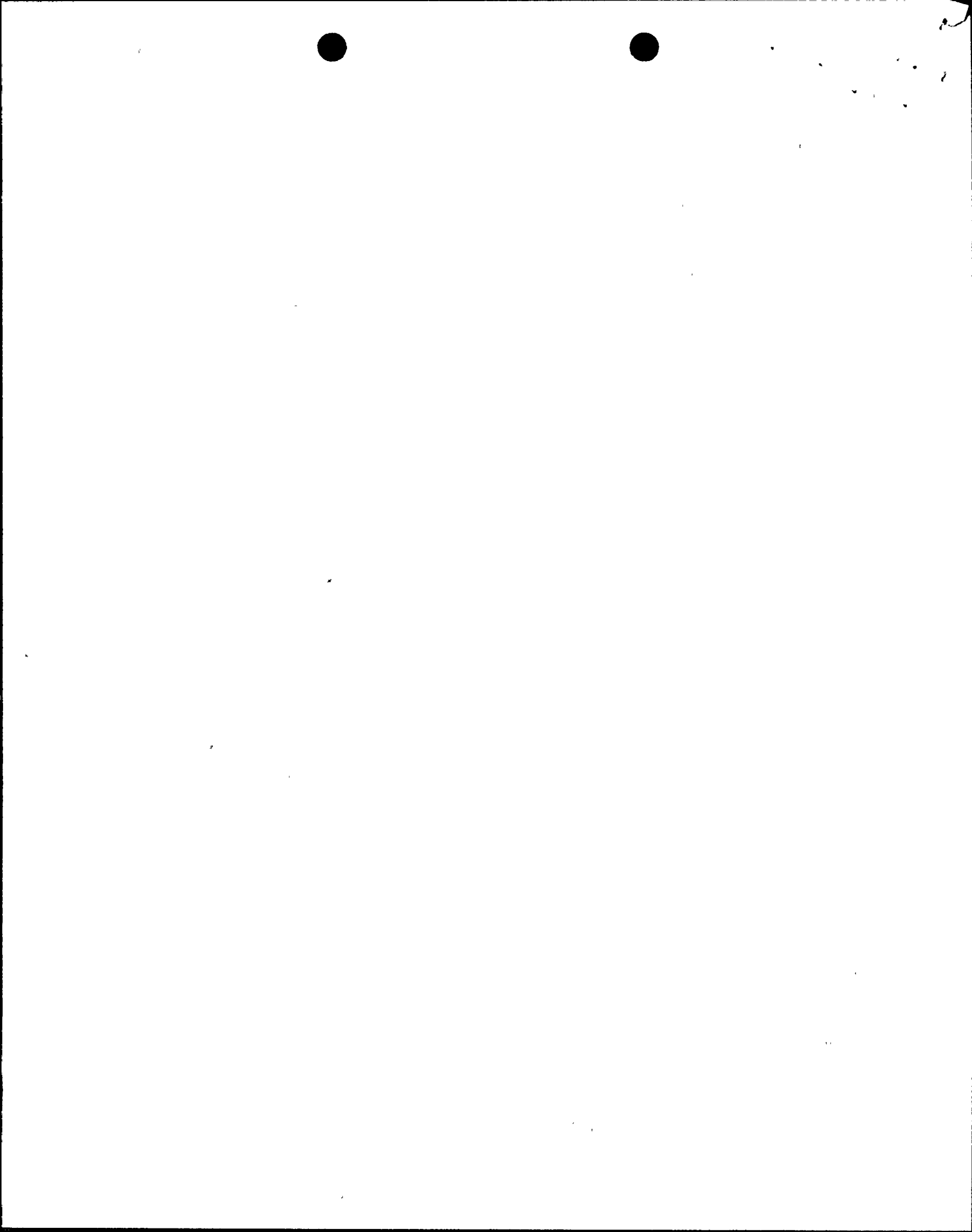
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References:

1. Mark O. Medford to U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, "Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant (BFN) - Plans For the Return to Service of BFN Units 1 and 3", letter dated January 9, 1991.
2. Mark O. Medford to U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, "Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant (BFN) Regulatory Framework For the Restart of Units 1 and 3", letter dated July 10, 1991.
3. William J. Dircks to Charles Dean, letter dated September 17, 1985, containing Request for Information under 10 CFR 50.54(f) related to Staff Concerns.
4. NUREG-1232, Volume 3, Supplement 2, "Safety Evaluation Report on Tennessee Valley Authority: Browns Ferry Nuclear Performance 4 Plan", January, 1991.
5. Frederick J. Hebdon to Dan A. Nauman, "Restart of Browns Ferry Units 1 and 3", letter dated March 14, 1991.
6. S. A. Varga to Dan A. Nauman, "Return to Service of Browns Ferry, Units 1 and 3", letter dated August 1, 1991.
7. O. J. Zeringue to U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, "Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant (BFN) - Units 1 and 3 Operational Readiness Program", letter dated November 12, 1991.

Distribution

Docket File

NRC PDR

Local PDR

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