



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

January 15, 1993

Docket Nos.: 50-259, 50-260
and 50-296

Tennessee Valley Authority
Attn: Dr. Mark O. Medford, Vice President
Nuclear Assurance, Licensing and Fuels
3B Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

Dear Dr. Medford:

SUBJECT: PLANT DESIGN CHANGE INSPECTION AT BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT
(NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-296/93-201)

We are forwarding the report of a Plant Design Change Inspection conducted by the Special Inspection Branch of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation from November 16 through December 4, 1992. The inspection involved activities authorized by Operating License Numbers DPR-33, DPR-52, and DPR-68 for the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant. An exit meeting was held on December 4, 1992 during which we discussed the team's findings with your staff.

The purpose of this inspection was to verify that your process for designing modifications to Unit 3 appropriately implemented NRC regulations and your commitments, and that the design controls for design and field changes were adequate. This was accomplished by inspecting selected design change notice (DCN) packages issued for Unit 3 during 1991 and 1992, as well as DCNs for Unit 2 which were also applicable to Unit 3. The team reviewed DCNs, field changes to DCNs (FDCNs), calculations, drawings, procedures, and other documents pertinent to the DCNs.

The team found that the design change process was adequately implemented and controlled. In general, regulatory requirements and licensing commitments were complied with. The design documents were thorough and readily accessible. Your engineering personnel responded effectively to the team's questions and appeared to have a good understanding of industry initiatives concerning the reactor level instrumentation and electromagnetic interference qualification issues.

The team identified five deficiencies. The most significant concerned the failure to properly evaluate the radiological consequences during the operation of the hardened wetwell vent. At a meeting with the NRC staff on December 16, 1992, your representatives agreed to revise the design to eliminate manual operation of the drain valves during venting and evaluate the consequences of ground-level release of radioactive materials from open drain valves during plant transients.

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January 15, 1993

Dr. Mark O. Medford

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The above deficiencies did not detract from the team's overall favorable impression of your design change process. No response to this letter is required. Any enforcement actions resulting from this inspection will be issued by Region II.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790(a), a copy of this letter and the enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room. Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, please contact the NRC Project Manager, Joseph Williams or the inspection team leader, Sam Malur. Messrs. Williams and Malur can be reached at (301) 504-1470, and (301) 504-2963, respectively.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

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

Enclosure:
Inspection Report 50-296/93-201

* SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCE

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Dr. Mark O. Medford
Tennessee Valley Authority

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Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant

cc:

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