



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

May 11, 1994

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

Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, Jr.  
President, TVA Nuclear and  
Chief Nuclear Officer  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
6A Lookout Place  
1101 Market Street  
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

SUBJECT: BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 -  
GENERIC LETTER 92-08, "THERMO-LAG 330-1 FIRE BARRIERS"  
(TAC NOS. M85523, M85524, AND M85525)

On January 18, 1994, the NRC staff denied an exemption from Section III.G of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 which had been requested by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) for the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant (BFN) Units 1, 2, and 3. In its letter forwarding the denial, the staff requested that TVA provide additional information documenting its plans for achieving long-term compliance with this regulation at BFN. TVA responded to this request on March 10, 1994.

In its letter of March 10, 1994, TVA committed to complete modifications necessary to bring the BFN Residual Heat Removal Service Water (RHRSW) power cables into compliance with Section III.G.b.2 of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 by July 26, 1995. TVA stated that it would modify existing Thermo-Lag 330-1 barriers to configurations consistent with one-hour rated fire barriers tested as part of the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant Thermo-Lag qualification test program. TVA also provided a list of configurations which were expected to be used, and committed to inform the NRC if the final design required different configurations.

The NRC staff has not completed its review of the Watts Bar Thermo-Lag Test Program. Therefore, staff acceptance of TVA's commitment to upgrade the BFN RHRSW fire barriers is contingent on completion of the Watts Bar program review.

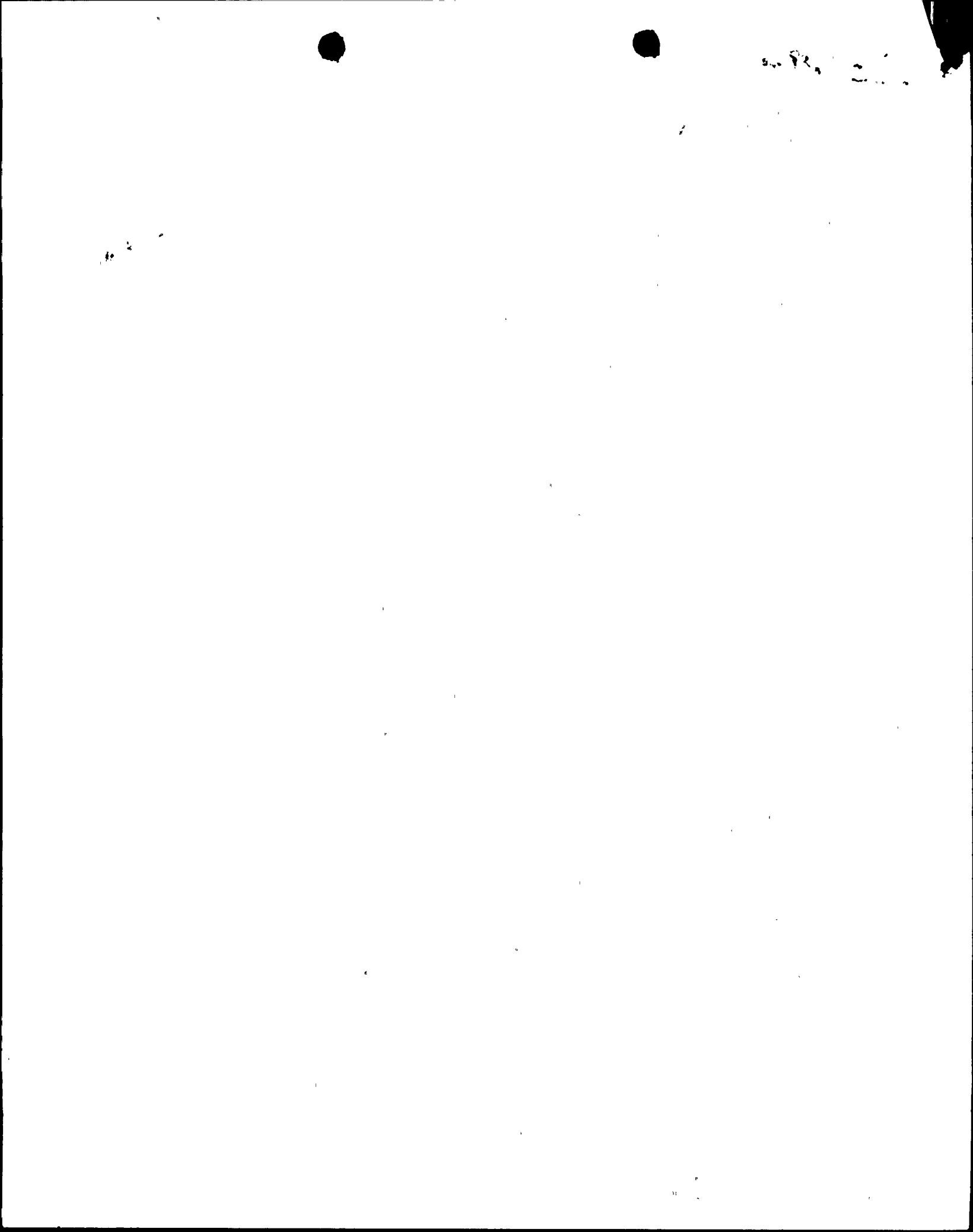
By letter dated May 10, 1993, TVA stated that it had initiated modifications which will allow BFN to comply with Section III.G.b.2 of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 without reliance on Thermo-Lag 330-1 fire barrier systems. These modifications were scheduled to be complete prior to BFN Unit 2, Cycle 7 operation, which began on May 25, 1993. Subsequently, on July 1, 1993, TVA stated an additional modification had been identified, and committed to complete this modification prior to BFN Unit 2, Cycle 8 operation. Upon

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Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, Jr.

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completion of these modifications, BFN will not require Thermo-Lag fire barriers for compliance with the regulations, with the exception of the RHRSW power cables discussed above.

In summary, the staff accepts TVA's commitments and schedule to perform modifications which eliminate the need for Thermo-Lag, or to provide a Thermo-Lag barrier which will satisfy regulatory requirements pending staff acceptance of the Watts Bar Thermo-lag Test Program. TVA is requested to confirm completion of these commitments within 30 days after TVA has completed the actions discussed above. Compliance with these commitments is subject to a future inspection.

Please contact me at (301) 504-1470 if you have any questions regarding this topic.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Joseph F. Williams, Project Manager  
Project Directorate II-4  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
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cc: See next page

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| NAME | B. Clayton                   | J. Williams                  | D. Trimble                   | C. McCracken               | F. Hebdon                   |
| DATE | 5/9/94                       | 5/9/94                       | 5/9/94                       | 5/10/94                    | 5/11/94                     |

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## BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT

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