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

May 29, 1981

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



Mr. Hugh G. Parris
Manager of Power
Tennessee Valley Authority
500A Chestnut Street, Tower II
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37401

Dear Mr. Parris:

By letters dated May 15, 1981, you submitted two applications to change the technical specifications for the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Units 1, 2 and 3 (TVA BFNP TS 162 and 163). Neither of these two applications included an explanation of the proposed changes to the Technical Specifications nor a safety evaluation for each proposed change as required by our regulations. This letter is to advise you that we cannot initiate our review of these - or any future applications - unless the requested amendments include: 1) an explanation of the requested change(s), 2) a brief justification for each change and 3) a thorough safety analysis of each change.

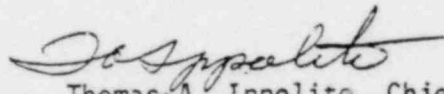
By letter dated April 29, 1981 (TVA BFNP TS 161) you submitted proposed changes to the technical specifications for Browns Ferry Unit No. 1. Safety analyses for some of the proposed changes were presented in the supplemental reload licensing submittal included with your letter. The safety evaluation on one of the modifications being performed during the current refueling outage - the new hydrogen monitoring system - was presented in the previous reload applications for Browns Ferry Units 2 and 3 and adequately covers this modification. However, there was no safety evaluation for changes to the technical specifications associated with modifications such as those to the torus or containment purge system and there was no safety analysis on changes to the Technical Specifications that were not the result of the new fuel loading. Accordingly, we are proceeding with our review of the changes to the Technical Specifications associated with the reload and the new hydrogen monitoring system. Our review of the other requested changes will not be initiated until we receive (1) a description of the changes requested, (2) a reason or justification for the changes and (3) most importantly, your safety analysis of the proposed changes.

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With most of our technical staff devoted to near-term operating licensee reviews, we need a thorough safety analysis on proposed changes to Technical Specifications from you and other licensees to be able to process your requests on any reasonable schedule. Frequently, licensees provide us the same safety evaluation with their application that they used internally to obtain approval for the proposed changes from their Plant Operations Review Committee (PORC) and their Nuclear Safety Review Board (NSRB).

If you have any questions or comments on this matter, I will be happy to discuss them with your staff.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Ippolito, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #2
Division of Licensing

cc: See next page

Mr. Hugh G. Parris

cc: -

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