



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

*Dechet*

January 24, 1990

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

Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, Jr.  
Senior Vice President, Nuclear Power  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
6N 38A Lookout Place  
1101 Market Street  
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

SUBJECT: TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY'S RESPONSE TO GENERIC LETTER 89-16,  
"INSTALLATION OF A HARDENED WETWELL VENT" (TAC NOS. 74858, 74859  
AND 74860) - BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1, 2 AND 3

On September 1, 1989, the NRC issued to owners of plants with Mark I containments Generic Letter 89-16, "Installation of a Hardened Wetwell Vent", which encouraged licensees to voluntarily install a hardened wetwell vent under 10 CFR 50.59.

By letter dated October 30, 1989, you committed to install hardened wetwell vents at the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Units 1, 2 and 3, under the provisions of 10 CFR 50.59. We find this commitment acceptable. Because of this commitment to install the requisite modifications, we will not proceed with the backfit analysis for these vents for your facility. If our understanding is not consistent with your intentions, please provide a detailed explanation of the commitments made in your response within 30 days of receipt of this letter.

The use of the results of the Individual Plant Examinations and Probabilistic Risk Assessment for Browns Ferry to develop supplemental criteria for the vent modification design is acceptable to the NRC, provided it does not in any way affect the vent modification completion schedule or your commitment to make the necessary modifications.

Your schedule for completion of the vent modifications for Unit 2 during the first scheduled refueling outage after restart is acceptable. Any change to the completion schedule must be discussed with the staff prior to its implementation and a final schedule should not extend beyond January 1993. Although it is not precisely known at this time when Unit 2 will be restarted, based upon current projections, the staff concludes that the Unit 2 modifications should not extend beyond January 1993.

You have committed to complete the installation of hardened vents at Units 1 and 3 prior to the respective restart of these units. We find this commitment acceptable. To date, there are no firm restart schedules for these units. It is possible that actual installation dates for these units may exceed January 1993. We, therefore, request that you keep the staff informed of the installation schedules for hardened vents for Units 1 and 3 as more precise restart schedules for these units are developed.

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Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley

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If you have any questions concerning the above, please contact the Browns Ferry Project Manager, Gerald E. Gears at 301-492-0767.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Suzanne Black, Assistant Director  
for Projects  
TVA Projects Division  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

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Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley

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Sincerely,

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Suzanne Black, Assistant Director  
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