



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

March 25, 1993

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

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

Dear Dr. Medford:

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO GENERIC LETTER 92-04, "RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUES  
RELATED TO REACTOR VESSEL WATER LEVEL INSTRUMENTATION IN  
BOILING WATER REACTORS"

This letter acknowledges receipt of the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) response to Generic Letter (GL) 92-04, dated September 28, 1992, for the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant (BFN), Units 1, 2, and 3. GL 92-04 was issued by letter dated August 19, 1992, to all operating Boiling Water Reactor (BWR) Licensees. GL 92-04 requested licensees to promptly assess the impact on their facilities of potentially erroneous level indication due to non-condensable gases, and to implement compensatory measures and long-term corrective actions as necessary.

We find acceptable:

- (1) TVA's review and acceptance of the BWR Owner's Group (BWROG) generic analysis as being applicable to BFN.
- (2) TVA's endorsement of the BWROG commitments, outlined in its letter dated August 12, 1992, regarding schedule and plans for actions to address postulated errors in BWR water level instrumentation.
- (3) TVA's endorsement of the BWROG's Emergency Procedures Committee guidance letter dated August 28, 1992. This letter provides guidance for operator action in the event of level indication errors due to non-condensable gases during RPV depressurization. We also understand that TVA has sensitized your operators to these potential errors consistent with the BWROG guidance.
- (4) TVA's commitment to implement the longer-term BWROG conclusions resulting from their experimental testing and analytical development programs described by letter dated August 12, 1992 on a schedule to be provided to the NRC after the BWROG work is complete.

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Dr. Mark O. Medford

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On October 23, 1992, the BWROG approved refined operator guidance developed by the Emergency Procedures Committee, sent to the BFN Operations Manager on October 16, 1992, for response to instrument errors due to non-condensable gases. We feel that this guidance provides appropriate information for operators to adequately identify and deal with potentially inaccurate RPV level instrumentation, and expect that this or equivalent guidance, has been incorporated into BFN procedures and/or training for operators.

Should you have any questions, please contact Thierry M. Ross at (301) 504-1474.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:  
VICTOR NERSES FOR:

Frederick J. Hebdon, Director  
Project Directorate II-4  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II

cc: See next page

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