



Tennessee Valley Authority, Post Office Box 2000, Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee 37379-2000

Ken Powers
Vice President, Sequoyah Nuclear Plant

June 23, 1994

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Gentlemen:

In the Matter of) Docket Nos. 50-327
Tennessee Valley Authority) 50-328

SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR PLANT (SQN) - NRC INSPECTION REPORT NOS. 50-327,
328/94-08 - RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Enclosed is TVA's response to William E. Cline's letter to Oliver D. Kingsley dated April 8, 1994, which transmitted the NRC inspection report containing a request for TVA to provide information regarding changes to the plans for completing modifications to enhance the performance and operability of the postaccident sampling system. No commitments are contained in this submittal.

If you have any questions concerning this submittal, please telephone C. H. Whittemore at (615) 843-7210.

Sincerely,

Ken Powers

Enclosure
cc: See page 2

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cc (Enclosure):

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ENCLOSURE

TVA's position and intentions regarding the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant (SQN) postaccident sampling system (PASS) modifications are provided below. As a result of budget constraints because of SQN's 1993-1994 forced outages, previously scheduled work on PASS modifications has been deferred. Also, based on further evaluations, two of the modifications may not warrant pursuing. This response will supersede information on the PASS modifications that was transmitted in TVA's letter to NRC dated September 20, 1993.

1. Reactor Coolant System (RCS) Hydrogen/Oxygen Analyzers

TVA does not plan to complete the modification involving the RCS hydrogen/oxygen analyzers. The PASS online oxygen analyzers are operational; however, the online hydrogen analyzers are not. Presently, the appropriate backup compensatory method for hydrogen analysis is being used. The PASS chemistry instrumentation to accomplish the analysis activities is expensive to install and maintain and will be obsolete in the near future. Because of this, TVA has taken the position that SQN PASS operability and sample analysis reliability will be improved if (1) the PASS units are dedicated to sample acquisition and (2) PASS samples are analyzed by laboratory methods instead of online instrumentation. Analysis of PASS grab samples meets the postaccident sampling criteria provided in NUREG-0737, II.B.3. A license amendment is being processed to revise the description of SQN's method of operating the PASS. This amendment will reflect SQN's decision to utilize analyses of PASS grab samples for oxygen and hydrogen gases instead of online instrumentation.

2. RCS Supply/Return Lines for Continuous Recirculation Capability

The installation of these new lines should improve PASS operability and analytical proficiency by allowing RCS sampling in all modes (presently, training involving RCS sampling is allowed only in Mode 5). The modifications for both units are scheduled to be finished by the end of October 1995.

3. Demineralized Water Pumps for Improved Water Pressure

At present, the demineralized water pressure for Units 1 and 2 is adequate to conduct timely system flushes. The enhancement of adding a pump to each PASS will increase flushing effectiveness and reduce flushing time. The modifications for both units are scheduled to be finished by the end of October 1995.

4. New Dedicated Communication System

At present, TVA does not plan to complete the modification involving the dedicated communication system. The existing dedicated PASS intercom system is inoperable and obsolete. Presently, PASS area communications are being performed via the following: (1) regular phone lines, using speaker phones; (2) microphones in self-contained breathing apparatuses that are connected to small clip-on speakers; and (3) hand-held radios. TVA contends that these communication measures are adequate.