



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555
March 30, 1992

Docket Nos. 50-327
and 50-328

Senior Vice President, Nuclear Power
Tennessee Valley Authority
3B Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

Dear Sir:

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO NRC BULLETIN 88-11 PRESSURIZER SURGE LINE THERMAL
STRATIFICATION - SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2
(TAC NOS. M72166 AND M72167)

By letter dated December 6, 1991, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) submitted information regarding issues raised in Bulletin 88-11 related to pressurizer surge line thermal stratification, and additional justification for continued operation of Sequoyah Nuclear Plant (SQN) Units 1 and 2. After the August 1991 audit of SQN's implementation of the Bulletin 88-11 program, the staff agreed that SQN could operate until each unit's Cycle 6 refueling outage. This would allow implementation of the proposed modifications related to Bulletin 88-11 during each of the unit's Cycle 6 outage, and not exceed the 11-cycle limit provided by Westinghouse Commercial Atomic Power Report WCAP-12777, "Structural Evaluation of Sequoyah and Watts Bar Units 1 and 2 Pressurizer Surge Lines, Considering the Effects of Thermal Stratification," December 1990. Upon completion of the proposed modifications, each unit will meet the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code Section III stress and fatigue limits. To date, each unit has used 4 of the 11 cycles. TVA has stated that should either unit reach 9 cycles before performing the necessary modifications, NRC will be informed.

TVA performed a walkdown of the Unit 1 surge line during the Cycle 5 refueling outage to measure the gaps and displacements at the pipe rupture protective devices. No new potential jet impingement targets were identified. However, a preliminary construction evaluation of potential whip restraint modifications revealed that minor modifications would be required to two of the whip restraints. A similar effort will be performed on Unit 2 in the upcoming refueling outage.

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The staff has reviewed TVA's response for SQN and finds that the program to address Bulletin 88-11 concerns is acceptable. This action completes staff review of activities related to Bulletin 88-11 for SQN and closes TAC NOS. M72166 and M72167.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

David E. LaBarge, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate II-4
Division of Reactor Projects I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

OFC	PDII4/LA	PDII-4/PM	PDII-4/D	
NAME	MSanders <i>ms</i>	DLaBarge: as/dw	FHeBdon	
DATE	3/20/92	3/30/92	3/30/92	

cc:

Mr. Marvin Runyon, Chairman
Tennessee Valley Authority
ET 12A
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

Mr. John B. Waters, Director
Tennessee Valley Authority
ET 12A
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

Mr. W. H. Kennoy, Director
Tennessee Valley Authority
ET 12A
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

Mr. W. F. Willis
Senior Executive Officer
ET 12B
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

General Counsel
Tennessee Valley Authority
ET 11H
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

Mr. Dwight Nunn
Vice President, Nuclear Projects
Tennessee Valley Authority
3B Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

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

Mr. Jack Wilson, Site Vice President
Sequoyah Nuclear Plant
Tennessee Valley Authority
P. O. Box 2000
Soddy Daisy, Tennessee 37379

Ms. Marci Cooper
Site Licensing Manager
Sequoyah Nuclear Plant
P. O. Box 2000
Soddy Daisy, Tennessee 37379

County Judge
Hamilton County Courthouse
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402

Regional Administrator, Region II
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
101 Marietta Street, N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

Mr. William E. Holland
Senior Resident Inspector
Sequoyah Nuclear Plant
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
2600 Igou Ferry Road
Soddy Daisy, Tennessee 37379

Mr. Michael H. Mobley, Director
Division of Radiological Health
T.E.R.R.A. Building, 6th Floor
150 9th Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee 37219-5404

Mr. Mark J. Burzynski
Manager, Nuclear Licensing
and Regulatory Affairs
Tennessee Valley Authority
5B Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402

Tennessee Valley Authority
Rockville Office
11921 Rockville Pike
Suite 402
Rockville, Maryland 20852

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