



Tennessee Valley Authority, Post Office Box 2000, Decatur, Alabama 35609

November 7, 1995

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

Gentlemen:

In the Matter of) Docket No. 50-296
Tennessee Valley Authority)

**BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT (BFN) - UNIT 3 - SUPPLEMENTAL
INFORMATION FOR REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL (RPV) SHELL WELDS
AUGMENTED EXAMINATION AND INSERVICE INSPECTION (ISI) RELIEF
REQUEST 3-ISI-17 (TAC M93759)**

The purpose of this letter is to submit information requested by the NRC project manager during a telephone call on November 3, 1995.

In a letter dated October 9, 1995, TVA submitted calculation MD-Q3001-920553, Vessel Flaw Evaluation for BFN Unit 3 and Drawing 729E762, Reactor Thermal Cycles. The calculation documented a structural flaw evaluation performed on the BFN Unit 3 vessel. In the telephone call, NRC requested TVA to provide clarification on the methodology for determining the limiting operating condition for the Unit 3 RVP welds in the calculation.

The enclosure provides the General Electric Nuclear Energy's report, An Evaluation To Determine The Limiting Operating Condition In The BFN III RPV Flaw Handbook. The report provides the clarification requested by the staff.

The report documents the analysis that indicates the hydrotest and boltup conditions were limiting operating conditions and, therefore, were the basis for determining the allowable flaw sizes reported in the flaw report. The report demonstrates that the operating conditions such as Level C and Level D service limits are not limiting.

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

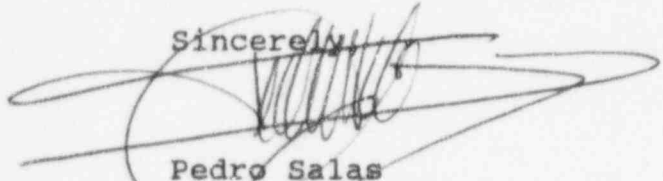
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The approach utilized in the report was to determine a flaw that was allowed by the handbook based on the hydrotest condition. For the same flaw geometry, the applied stress intensity factor values from applied loadings, (K applied values) were calculated for the limiting Level C and Level D transients and compared with the allowable K values of these operating conditions. It was shown the applied K values were considerably less than the allowable flaw size based on Level C and Level D conditions. Based on this evaluation, it was concluded that the Level C and Level D conditions were not limiting for the allowable flaw evaluation and that the use of hydrotest and boltup conditions as limiting is appropriate.

There are no new commitments contained in this letter. If you have any questions, please contact me at (205) 729-2636.

Sincerely,



Pedro Salas
Manager of Site Licensing

Enclosure

cc (Enclosure):

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ENCLOSURE

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY
BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT (BFN)
UNIT 3

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR
REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL (RPV)
SHELL WELDS AUGMENTED EXAMINATION AND
INSERVICE INSPECTION (ISI)RELIEF REQUEST 3-ISI-17

GENE-523-A120-1195

AN EVALUATION TO DETERMINE
THE LIMITING OPERATING
CONDITION IN THE BFN III
RPV FLAW HANDBOOK