



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

ENCLOSURE

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1, 2 AND 3

DOCKET NOS. 50-259, 50-260, AND 50-296

SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

DOCKET NOS. 50-327 AND 50-328

BELLEFONTE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

DOCKET NOS. 50-438 AND 50-439

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated December 11, 1991, the Tennessee Valley Authority (the licensee) requested a change to the fire brigade practice session periodicity. The licensee requested, for scheduling purposes, a grace period to implement the required training.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Branch Technical Position (BTP) 9.5-1 specifies that the fire brigade practice session should be held for each fire brigade shift. The practice sessions should train the brigade on the proper methods of fighting the various type of fires that could occur in a nuclear power plant. The intent of these sessions is to provide all members of the fire brigade with experience in actual fire extinguishment and the use of emergency breathing apparatus under strenuous conditions that could be encountered during actual fire fighting situations. The BTP specifies that these sessions be performed at least once per year for each fire brigade member.

The licensee is requesting a change to the BTP that requires that the fire brigade practice session be conducted on an annual basis. The licensee has committed to perform these practice sessions for their fire brigades annually, but has requested the flexibility to schedule this training for any time during the calendar quarter in which the training is due.

3.0 EVALUATION

In past Safety Evaluations (SEs), the staff has determined that the licensee's fire brigade training program for their nuclear power plants met the guidance of BTP 9.5-1, Section C.3. (e.g., Browns Ferry Facility SE dated September 13, 1988).

The fire brigade practice sessions are performed at the licensee's centralized Fire Brigade Training Academy. This centralized training concept allows the licensee to utilize higher quality power plant type fire training simulators

and a dedicated full-time fire fighting training staff. The licensee's fire fighting training staff has developed specific actual fire fighting practice evolutions which simulate power plant fire conditions. The objective of the annual practice session is to allow each fire brigade shift to practice under actual fire conditions as a team. Currently, each individual fire brigade shift for the Browns Ferry, Sequoyah, and Bellefonte Nuclear Power Plants conducts a one-week practice session at the Academy on an annual basis.

The requested modification of the periodicity for the fire brigade practice session from annually not to exceed one year, to annually not to exceed the calendar quarter in which the practice session is due, will provide the licensee with additional training scheduling and coordination flexibility. This flexibility in training scheduling has become necessary in order to ensure that each plant fire brigade shift participates in the required practice session as a team. In addition, the scheduling relief will also assist the licensee in ensuring that personnel transferred from shift to shift maintain their required fire brigade training qualifications current. Granting of this flexibility will not result in a degradation of the ability of the fire brigade to perform its duties in the event of a plant fire and is consistent with the intent of BTP 9.5-1.

#### 4.0 CONCLUSION

Based on the above evaluation, the staff has concluded that the licensee's proposed change to the periodicity associated with the fire brigade practice sessions is acceptable.

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Date: June 10, 1992