

Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, Jr.
President, TVA Nuclear and
Chief Nuclear Officer
Tennessee Valley Authority
6A Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

June 17, 1996

SUBJECT: BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT UNIT 3 - AUTHORIZATION OF ALTERNATIVE
REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL EXAMINATIONS (TAC M91786)

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

By letter dated March 6, 1995, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) requested authorization for an alternative reactor pressure vessel examination to satisfy the requirements of 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(ii)(A), "Augmented Examination of Reactor Vessel," for the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant (BFN) Unit 3. An augmented examination of the BFN Unit 3 reactor pressure vessel was conducted in 1993. TVA provided information on results of reactor pressure vessel weld flaw evaluations on October 9, November 2, and November 7, 1995. The NRC staff safety evaluation of the weld flaw evaluations is documented in a letter dated November 8, 1995.

The Enclosure provides the NRC staff's safety evaluation of TVA's proposed alternative examination. The staff concludes that the alternatives discussed in TVA's March 6, 1995 submittal are acceptable pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(ii)(A)(5), as they provide an acceptable level of quality and safety.

Please contact Joe Williams at (301) 415-1470 if you have any questions regarding this topic.

Sincerely,
Original signed by
Frederick J. Hebdon, Director
Project Directorate II-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-296

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosure: See next page

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