

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37401  
5N 157B Lookout Place

MAY 26 1998

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

Gentlemen:

In the Matter of	)	Docket Nos. 50-259
Tennessee Valley Authority	)	50-260
		50-296

BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT (BFN) - EVALUATION OF STRUCTURES FOR REINFORCING BAR CUTS

Our letter to J. M. Taylor dated November 10, 1986, provided TVA's assessment of how certain design deficiencies identified at Sequoyah Nuclear Plant (Inspection Reports 50-327/86-27, 50-328/86-27) applied to BFN. Item D.4.3-1, Evaluation of Structures for Reinforcing Bar Cuts, was determined to be applicable to BFN. TVA committed to performing an evaluation to identify areas where unevaluated rebar cuts exist and determine if a loss of function or reduction in capability of the concrete results from the cut rebar. This evaluation was to be a part of a review of all engineering change notices (ECNs) implemented since issuance of the BFN operating license.

TVA has determined that a different approach will better address potential situations involving unevaluated cuts in reinforcing bars. The ECN review will not be performed as rebar cuts are not tracked by the ECN process. The worst case situations involving possible unevaluated rebar cuts will be determined by examining those areas in the Reactor Building with the highest design floor slab live loading and attached loads in conjunction with the greatest potential for unevaluated cuts in reinforcing bars. A walkdown of these worst case areas will be performed to predict any unevaluated rebar cuts. The walkdown will utilize nondestructive examination techniques such as, but not limited to, rebar meters and visual observations to determine if unevaluated rebar cuts exist.

If any such rebar cuts are predicted to exist, calculations will be performed to demonstrate continued structural adequacy. These calculations will also include an evaluation of any significant attached loads not in the original BFN design. This evaluation will be completed prior to unit 2 restart.

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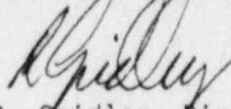
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

MAY 26 1988

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please telephone Patrick Carier, BFN Site Licensing, at (205) 729-2689.

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

  
R. Gridley, Director  
Nuclear Licensing and  
Regulatory Affairs

Enclosure

cc (Enclosure):

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Enclosure 1

Commitments Made In This Letter

1. The worst case situations involving possible unevaluated rebar cuts will be determined by examining those areas in the Reactor Building with the highest design floor slab live loading and attached loads in conjunction with the greatest potential for unevaluated cuts in reinforcing bars.

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