

September 30, 1988

Docket Nos. 50-327/328

Mr. S. A. White
Senior Vice President, Nuclear Power
Tennessee Valley Authority
6N 38A Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Cattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

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Dear Mr. White:

SUBJECT: CORE SHUTDOWN MARGIN - SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2
(TACS R00398, R00399)

By letter dated July 14, 1988, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) submitted a Licensee Event Report (LER 50-328/88-030) on the shutdown margin in the cores for Sequoyah Units 1 and 2. This LER applies to Unit 1 core 4 and Unit 2 core 3 which are the current cores for the units. Unit 1 is preparing to begin cycle 4 operation and Unit 2 is in cycle 3 operation. The number assigned to the core for each unit is the cycle the unit is currently in or preparing to enter when the unit returns to power.

The staff conducted an inspection on this subject during July 11-14, 1988, reviewed the above LER and reviewed TVA's letter of August 31, 1988. The staff concludes that the compensatory measures put in place by TVA adequately address the effects of excessive cooldown on shutdown margins and that no unresolved safety issue exists. Please note that this conclusion is limited to Unit 2 core 3 operation and to the restart of Unit 1 core 4 because TVA relies on operator action to compensate for known deficiencies in design or maintenance. The compensatory measures are acceptable for the short-term. TVA has stated that it will submit the details of its long-term program by October 14, 1988. This is acceptable.

Further review and approval by the staff will be necessary for the long-term operation of unit 1 core 4 and the restart of Unit 2 after the upcoming Cycle 3 refueling outage. The staff intends to evaluate your October 14, 1988 submittal expeditiously and will issue its evaluation in a separate letter. This letter will address long-term operation of Unit 1 core 4 and the restart of Unit 2 from the Cycle 3 refueling outage.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Suzanne Black, Assistant Director
for Projects
Office of Special Projects

Enclosure:
Safety Evaluation Report

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

JND A/PM
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9/30/88

OSP: SB
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Sincerely,

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Suzanne Black, Assistant Director
for Projects
Office of Special Projects

Enclosure:
Safety Evaluation Report

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OSP: SA/AD/P
SBlack
9/30/88

Mr. S. A. White

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Sequoyah Nuclear Plant

CC:

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