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

August 3, 1989

Docket Nos. 50-327  
and 50-328

Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, Jr.  
Senior Vice President, Nuclear Power  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
6N 38A Lookout Place  
1101 Market Street  
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

SUBJECT: MICROBIOLOGICALLY INDUCED CORROSION PROGRAM (TAC NOS. R00494/R00495) -  
SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

By letter dated January 20, 1988, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) submitted a microbiologically induced corrosion (MIC) program for Sequoyah. The MIC damage was in the essential raw cooling water system. The staff accepted the program in its letter dated March 31, 1988, noting that not repairing or replacing MIC damaged welds when found would require the granting of relief from certain American Society for Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section XI (Code) inservice inspection requirements, i.e., repair of leaking welds to Code criteria. The original request for relief from the Code, Section XI, IWA-5250(a)(2) for this subject was made in the TVA letter dated April 4, 1988, with two clarification letters dated April 4, and May 4, 1988. The request for relief was granted by NRC in its letter dated May 11, 1988, on the condition that three additional requirements were incorporated in TVA's MIC program.

By letter dated October 28, 1988, TVA (1) implicitly requested the inclusion of a contingent, temporary structural sleeve weld repair method for MIC damage under the relief granted by our letter of May 11, 1988, (2) acknowledged the three additional requirements in our May 11, 1988 letter and addressed how they were implemented, and (3) described TVA's contingency plan for installing a structural sleeve as a temporary repair. The sleeve weld repair is a temporary measure for the plant to complete its operating cycle and would be replaced by a Code approved permanent repair in the next refueling outage. In a telephone conversation with NRC staff on June 12, 1989, TVA clarified technical aspects discussed in the letter.

The staff has considered the inclusion of this structural sleeve weld repair method in TVA's original request for relief and finds it is acceptable. The staff also finds that TVA has acceptably implemented the additional requirements in our May 11, 1988 letter and the MIC program is acceptable. The bases for our conclusions are provided in the enclosed Safety Evaluation (SE). The staff concludes that the Code repair requirements of MIC damage (leaks and structural integrity loss) within stated limits of ERCW piping welds while the plant is in its operating cycle are impractical and that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i), the MIC program including the temporary weld repair method proposed by TVA will provide an acceptable level of quality and safety.

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The staff also concludes that the repair method will not endanger life or property, or the common defense and security and is otherwise in the public interest considering the burden that could result upon TVA if the Code requirements were imposed upon the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2. Therefore, the staff concludes that (1) the basis for granting the relief in the staff's letter dated May 11, 1988 has not changed and (2) the TVA proposed sleeve repair is within the previous relief from the Code, Section XI, IWA-5250(a)(2) which was granted to TVA for Sequoyah in the staff's letter dated May 11, 1988 and that no new relief from the Code need be granted.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by

Gerald E. Gears for

Suzanne Black, Assistant Director  
for Projects

TVA Projects Division

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:  
Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosure:  
See next page

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