



Tennessee Valley Authority, Post Office Box 2000, Decatur, Alabama 35609-2000

October 28, 1999

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

Gentlemen:

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

**BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT (BFN) - NRC BULLETIN NO. 96-03,
POTENTIAL PLUGGING OF EMERGENCY CORE COOLING SUCTION (ECCS)
STRAINERS BY DEBRIS IN BOILING-WATER REACTORS (TAC NOS. M96136
AND M96137)**

This letter provides notification of actions completed by TVA to resolve issues described by the subject bulletin. BFN has implemented modification Option 1 of Bulletin 96-03, installation of a large passive strainer design. The ECCS suction strainers in both Units 2 and 3 have been replaced with a high capacity, passive, "stacked disk" strainer configuration. The replacement strainer design was governed by the Boiling Water Reactor Owner Group (BWROG) Utility Resolution Guidance (URG) (General Electric NEDO-32686) and is consistent with Regulatory Guide 1.82, Revision 2, "Water Sources for Long-term Recirculation Cooling Following A Loss-Of-Coolant Accident."

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Page 2
October 28, 1999

TVA modified the plant by installing the new strainers under the provisions of 10 CFR 50.59. These were installed on Unit 2 in 1997 and on Unit 3 in 1998.

As part of the design review for resolution of the NRC bulletin, TVA determined that containment pressure in excess of atmospheric (containment overpressure) was required to maintain adequate net positive suction head (NPSH) for the low pressure ECCS pumps. Since credit for containment overpressure was not part of BFN's licensing basis, by letter dated September 4, 1998 (Reference 1), TVA requested an amendment to the Units 2 and 3 license to utilize the available containment overpressure to maintain adequate net positive suction for the low pressure ECCS pumps.

By letter dated September 3, 1999 (Reference 2), NRC granted TVA's request to amend the BFN license, allowing the use of containment overpressure to support NPSH requirements for the low pressure ECCS pumps. TVA has implemented the licensee amendment by revising the BFN Updated Final Safety Analysis Report.

In response to NRC Bulletin 95-02 dated, October 17, 1995 (Reference 3), Unexpected Clogging of a Residual Heat Removal (RHR) Pump Strainer While Operating In The Suppression Cooling Mode, TVA developed a program for suppression pool cleaning. The program, maintains the suppression pool such that the requirements set forth by the BWROG URG are satisfied.

Based on the previous discussion, TVA believes that NRC Bulletin 96-03 should be closed for BFN Units 2 and 3. There are no commitments contained in this letter.

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Page 3
October 28, 1999

If you have any questions regarding this please contact me at
(256) 729-2636.

Sincerely


T. E. Abney
Manager of Licensing
and Industry Affairs

Subscribed and sworn before
me on this 28th of Oct., 1999.


Barbara A. Blanton
Notary Public

My Commission expires: 9/22/ 2002

REFERENCES

1. TVA Letter to NRC Dated September 4, 1998, Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant - Units 2 And 3 - license Amendment Regarding Use of Containment Overpressure For Emergency Core Cooling System (ECCS) Pump Net Positive Suction Head (NPSH) Analysis
2. NRC Letter to NRC Dated September 3, 1999, Browns Ferry Nuclear Plants, Units 2 and 3 - Issuance Of Amendments regarding Crediting Of Containment Overpressure For Net Positive Suction Head Calculations For Emergency Cooling pumps (Tac Nos. MA3492 and MA3493)
3. NRC Letter To TVA Dated October 17, 1995, NRC Bulletin 95-02: Unexpected Clogging Of A Residual Heat Removal (RHR) Pump Strainer While Operating In Suppression Pool Mode

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Page 5

October 28, 1999

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