



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 15, 1999

Mr. J. A. Scalice
Chief Nuclear Officer
and Executive Vice President
Tennessee Valley Authority
6A Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

SUBJECT: BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT UNITS 2 AND 3, COMPLETION OF LICENSING ACTIONS FOR BULLETIN 96-03, "POTENTIAL PLUGGING OF EMERGENCY CORE COOLING SUCTION STRAINERS BY DEBRIS IN BOILING-WATER REACTORS," DATED MAY 6, 1996 (TAC NOS. M96135, M96136 AND M96137)

Dear Mr. Scalice:

On May 6, 1996, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Bulletin 96-03, "Potential Plugging of Emergency Core Cooling Suction Strainers by Debris in Boiling-Water Reactors" to all holders of operating licenses or construction permits for boiling-water reactors. The NRC issued Bulletin 96-03 to ensure that the emergency core cooling systems in boiling-water reactors (BWRs) can perform their intended safety function to mitigate the effects of a postulated loss-of-coolant accident. The Bulletin provided three options for resolving this issue including (1) installation of large capacity passive strainers, (2) installation of self-cleaning strainers, or (3) installation of a backflush system.

In Bulletin 96-03, the NRC staff specifically requested that licensees submit the following reports for their facilities:

1. A description of planned actions and mitigative strategies to be used, the schedule for implementation, and proposed technical specification, if appropriate.
2. A report confirming completion and summarizing actions taken.

In response to Bulletin 96-03, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) provided information by letters dated November 4, 1996, July 25, 1997, August 25, 1997, September 16, 1997, and, in addition, a meeting was held on March 27, 1997. By NRC letter dated February 19, 1997, we clarified staff expectations, and by letter dated December 9, 1998 we advised you of the status of our review and indicated that it was being deferred pending completion of our review of your application for credit for containment overpressure to meet net positive suction head requirements. The containment overpressure issue was satisfactorily closed out, for Units 2 and 3, by amendments issued on September 3, 1999.

By letter dated October 28, 1999, TVA informed the staff that they had completed all actions requested by the bulletin. These actions include: installation of high capacity "stacked disk" strainers, augmented operator training, a Foreign Materials Exclusion Program, and

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J.A. Scalice

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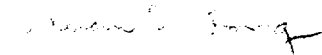
implementation of a suppression pool cleaning and inspection program consistent with NRC Bulletin 95-02 and the BWR Owners Group utility resolution guidance (NEDO-32686).

The staff considers your actions responsive to the concerns raised in Bulletin 96-03. Therefore, Bulletin 96-03 is closed for Units 2 and 3. Detailed reviews of strainer installations and Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 50.59 analyses may be performed on a plant specific basis in the future.

For Unit 1, Bulletin 96-03 is an issue to be addressed in the event you wish to resume power operation of that unit.

This completes the staff's efforts on TAC Nos. M96135, M96136 and M96137. If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact me at 301-415-3026.

Sincerely,



William O. Long, Senior Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-259, 50-260 & 50-296

cc: See next page

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Original signed by:

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BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT

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