



UNITED STATES  
**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 18, 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 UNIT 3, RELIEF REQUEST 3-ISI-1,  
 REVISION 1, ALTERNATIVES FOR EXAMINATION OF REACTOR PRESSURE  
 VESSEL SHELL WELDS (TAC NO. MA5953)

Dear Mr. Scalice:

By letter dated June 25, 1999, as modified by letter dated October 22, 1999, the Tennessee Valley Authority, requested relief from the inservice inspection requirements of Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) Section 50.55a(g) for the volumetric examination of circumferential reactor pressure vessel (RPV) welds at Browns Ferry Unit 3. This request was pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i) and 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(ii)(A)(5) and is consistent with the guidance provided in Generic Letter 98-05, "Boiling Water Reactor Licensees Use of the BWRVIP-05 Report to Request Relief From Augmented Examination Requirements on Reactor Pressure Vessel Circumferential Shell Welds." The relief request was for permanent deferral (for the term of the operating license) of examinations of the circumferential shell welds of the RPV, and for relief from the requirement for successive examination of fifteen previously identified "nonthreatening" circumferential weld flaws.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has reviewed the request for relief and concluded that the alternative proposal provides an acceptable level of quality and safety. Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(ii)(A)(5), the inspection of the circumferential welds may be permanently deferred for the remaining term of operation under the existing operating license, and relief is granted from the requirement for successive examination of fifteen previously identified, "nonthreatening" circumferential weld flaws. The staff's safety evaluation is attached.

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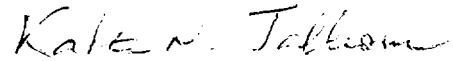
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J.A. Scalice

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This completes the staff's activities related to your relief request of June 25, 1999. If you have any questions, please contact the Browns Ferry project manager at 301-415-3026.

Sincerely,



Kahtan N. Jabbour, Acting Chief, Section 2  
Project Directorate II  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-296

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

J.A. Scalice

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November 18, 1999

This completes the staff's activities related to your relief request of June 25, 1999. If you have any questions, please contact the Browns Ferry project manager at 301-415-3026.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Kahtan N. Jabbour, Acting Chief, Section 2  
Project Directorate II  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-296

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

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