



50-259/296

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

November 19, 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, CLOSURE OF STAFF REVIEW FOR
GENERIC LETTER 96-05, "PERIODIC VERIFICATION OF DESIGN-BASIS
CAPABILITY OF SAFETY-RELATED MOTOR-OPERATED VALVES"
(TAC NOS. M97020, M97021 AND M97022)

Dear Mr. Scalice:

On September 18, 1996, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Generic Letter (GL) 96-05, "Periodic Verification of Design-Basis Capability of Safety-Related Motor-Operated Valves," requesting each nuclear power plant licensee to establish a program, or to ensure the effectiveness of its current program, to verify on a periodic basis that safety-related motor-operated valves (MOV) continue to be capable of performing their safety functions within the current licensing bases of the facility.

On November 18, 1996, you submitted your 60-day response to GL 96-05 notifying us that you would implement the requested MOV periodic verification program. On March 17, 1997, you submitted the 180-day response providing a summary description of the MOV periodic verification program planned to be implemented at Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Units 2 and 3. In a letter dated April 28, 1998, you updated your commitment to GL 96-05, and on March 30, 1999, you provided a response to our request for additional information dated January 12, 1999.

The staff has reviewed the submittals and applicable NRC inspection reports for the MOV program at Browns Ferry, and has found that you have established an acceptable program to verify, periodically, the design-basis capability of the safety-related MOVs at Browns Ferry through commitments to all three phases of the Joint Owners Group (JOG) Program on MOV Periodic Verification. In closing out GL 96-05, the staff is not approving your proposed exception to implement possible deviations to the JOG program because you have not provided the criteria to be used as the bases for justifying any deviations. This was explained to John Sparks, Mike Morrison, and John Elmerick, of your staff, on November 8, 1999. As discussed in the enclosed safety evaluation, we have concluded that you have adequately addressed the actions requested in GL 96-05. The NRC staff may conduct inspections at Browns Ferry to verify the implementation of the MOV periodic verification program is in accordance with your commitments.

DFOI

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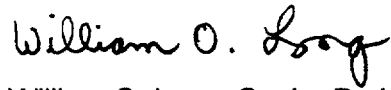
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J. Scalice

- 2 -

GL 96-05 will be tracked as a restart issue for Unit 1. This completes our efforts on TAC Nos. M97020, M97021 and M97022. If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact me at 301-415-3026.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of William O. Long in cursive script.

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, 50-296 & 50-296

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosure: See next page

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- 2 -

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Original signed by:

William O. Long, Senior Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
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Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosure: See next page

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