

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

November 24, 1999

SUBJECT: RELIEF FROM ASME CODE REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTAINMENT RELATED EXAMINATIONS AND TESTS AT WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT (TAC NO. MA6069)

Dear Mr. Scalice:

By letters dated July 8 and October 14, 1999, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) submitted a request for relief from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section XI, Subsection IWE under Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR), Sections 50.55a(a)(3)(i) and 50.55a(a)(3)(ii), for the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 1. The request addressed items CISI-1 through CISI-5 for Code Class MC (metal containment) pressure retaining components and metallic shell and penetration liners of Code Class CC (concrete containment) pressure retaining components and their integral attachments.

The staff has reviewed the information provided in TVA's July 8 and October 14, 1999 letters. The staff's evaluation and conclusions are contained in Enclosure 1, and Enclosure 2 contains a summary of the relief requests. Based on the information provided in the relief requests (Relief Requests CISI-01 through CISI-05), the staff concludes that for Relief Requests CISI-02 and -05, the licensee's proposed alternatives will provide an acceptable level of safety and quality. Accordingly, the staff authorizes the use of such alternative pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i). For Relief Requests CISI-01, 03 and 04, the staff concludes that compliance with the code requirements would result in a hardship without a compensating increase in the level of safety and quality, and that the licensee's proposed alternatives will provide reasonable assurance of containment pressure integrity. Accordingly, the staff authorizes the use of such alternatives pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(ii).

Sincerely,
 Original signed by K. Jabbour for:
 Richard P. Correia, Chief, Section 2
 Project Directorate II
 Division of Licensing Project Management
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-390

Enclosure: 1. Safety Evaluation
 2. Summary

cc w/enclosures: See next page

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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