

March 26, 2001

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

SUBJECT: SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 - RE: COMPLETION OF
LICENSING ACTION FOR GENERIC LETTER 98-02, "LOSS OF REACTOR
COOLANT INVENTORY AND ASSOCIATED POTENTIAL FOR LOSS OF
EMERGENCY MITIGATION FUNCTION WHILE IN A SHUTDOWN
CONDITION" (TAC NOS. MA4804 AND MA4805)

Dear Mr. Scalice:

On May 28, 1998, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Generic Letter (GL) 98-02 to all holders of operating licenses for Pressurized Water Reactors (PWRs), except those who have permanently ceased operations, and have certified that fuel has been permanently removed from the reactor vessel. The NRC issued GL 98-02 to request that PWR licensees evaluate a September 17, 1994, event, which occurred at Wolf Creek, which had the potential to drain down the reactor coolant system (RCS) to the refueling water storage tank and, at the same time, render the emergency core cooling system (ECCS) and residual heat removal (RHR) system inoperable by introducing a steam/water mixture to the suction side of the ECCS and RHR pumps. Addressees of GL 98-02 were requested to provide the following information within 180 days: (1) an assessment of whether the addressee's facility is vulnerable to the type of event experienced at Wolf Creek on September 17, 1994, and (2) if the facility is found to be vulnerable, an assessment of the plant-specific Title 10, *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Part 50, Appendix B, quality assurance program attributes which will prevent the subject event. If the addressee's facility was determined to be vulnerable, a response to information item (1) was to be provided pursuant to 10 CFR 50.54(f) and 10 CFR 50.4, and the responses to information items (1) and (2) were to be kept in a licensee's retrievable system for use by the NRC staff on an as-needed basis.

In response to GL 98-02, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) provided a letter dated November 24, 1998, for Sequoyah Nuclear Plant (SQN), Units 1 and 2. The submittal indicated that SQN, Units 1 and 2, were vulnerable to the type of incident which occurred at Wolf Creek and further indicated that the plant evaluation concerning the subject vulnerability (information item (2) of GL 98-02), was being kept in a retrievable licensee system that the NRC can verify on an as-needed or sample basis, in accordance with GL 98-02.

NRC Region II issued Inspection Report 50-327/00-02 on May 1, 2000, to document the results of inspections conducted in accordance with Temporary Instruction 2515/142. The inspector concluded that TVA's response to GL 98-02 did not fully address the potential risks associated with hot, pressurized RCS conditions and the report identified Unresolved Issue URI 50-327, 328/00-02-04 pending further NRC review. By letter dated January 29, 2001, the Region II NRC staff issued NRC Integrated Inspection Report No. 50-327/00-07, 50-328/00-07, which noted that TVA had taken reasonable actions to lower the risks of draindown events during hot and pressurized conditions under Problem Evaluation Report 00-001404-000. Specifically, TVA revised Abnormal Operating Procedure AOP-R.02, "Shutdown LOCA," to address the inspector's previous concerns.

The NRC staff has reviewed your response to GL 98-02 and has concluded that (1) all the information requested by GL 98-02 has been provided and (2) that your on-site activities adequately addressed the concerns of GL 98-02 for SQN, Units 1 and 2. Therefore, we consider GL 98-02 to be closed for SQN, Units 1 and 2.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Ronald W. Hernan, Senior Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-327 and 50-328

cc: See next page

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ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER:

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NAME	BClayton	RHernan	RCorreia
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Mr. J. A. Scalice
Tennessee Valley Authority

cc:

Mr. Karl W. Singer, Senior Vice President
Nuclear Operations
Tennessee Valley Authority
6A Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

Mr. Jack A. Bailey
Vice President
Engineering & Technical Services
Tennessee Valley Authority
6A Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

Mr. Richard T. Purcell
Site Vice President
Sequoyah Nuclear Plant
Tennessee Valley Authority
P.O. Box 2000
Soddy Daisy, TN 37379

General Counsel
Tennessee Valley Authority
ET 10H
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, TN 37902

Mr. Robert J. Adney, General Manager
Nuclear Assurance
Tennessee Valley Authority
5M Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

Mr. Mark J. Burzynski, Manager
Nuclear Licensing
Tennessee Valley Authority
4X Blue Ridge
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR PLANT

Mr. Pedro Salas, Manager
Licensing and Industry Affairs
Sequoyah Nuclear Plant
Tennessee Valley Authority
P.O. Box 2000
Soddy Daisy, TN 37379

Mr. D. L. Koehl, Plant Manager
Sequoyah Nuclear Plant
Tennessee Valley Authority
P.O. Box 2000
Soddy Daisy, TN 37379

Mr. Russell A. Gibbs
Senior Resident Inspector
Sequoyah Nuclear Plant
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
2600 Igou Ferry Road
Soddy Daisy, TN 37379

Mr. Lawrence E. Nanney, Director
Division of Radiological Health
Dept. of Environment & Conservation
Third Floor, L and C Annex
401 Church Street
Nashville, TN 37243-1532

County Executive
Hamilton County Courthouse
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

Ms. Ann Harris
305 Pickel Road
Ten Mile, TN 37880