

October 3, 2001

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 1, 2, AND 3 - LEAD TEST  
ASSEMBLIES IN THE BLENDED LOW ENRICHED URANIUM PROGRAM  
(TAC NOS. MB2748, MA2749, AND MB2750)

Dear Mr. Scalice:

On September 20, 2001, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff (R. Caruso, M. Chatterton, R. Hernan, and K. Jabbour) held a telephone conversation (telecon) with the staffs of Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) (the licensee) at Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant (BFN) and Framatome ANP Richland, Inc. The telecon was in response to TVA's submittal dated August 17, 2001, the purpose of which was to justify use of blended low enriched uranium (BLEU) in reload quantities at BFN without being preceeded by lead test assemblies (LTAs).

The submittal did not request any regulatory action. TVA's staff stated that there is no need for a technical specification change or a license amendment. In addition, they stated that the use of BLEU will be evaluated by the Title 10, *Code of Federal Regulations*, (10 CFR) Section 50.59 process and requires no NRC staff action. Based on the discussion, the NRC staff concluded that since (1) no review of the submittal was requested and (2) the licensee is using the 10 CFR 50.59 process to justify batch use of BLEU, no NRC staff effort should be expended on evaluation or review of the submittal or the subject. The staff reminded the licensee that, as always, their 10 CFR 50.59 evaluation is subject to audit.

This completes the staff's actions regarding TAC Nos. MB2748, MB2749, and MB2750. Therefore, this memorandum closes-out the above three TACs.

Sincerely,  
**/RA/**

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

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

cc: See next page

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Tennessee Valley Authority

**BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT**

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