



Tennessee Valley Authority, Post Office Box 2000, Decatur, Alabama 35609-2000

January 9, 2002

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Gentlemen:

In the Matter of) Docket No. 50-296
Tennessee Valley Authority)

BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT (BFN) - UNIT 3 - AMERICAN SOCIETY
OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS (ASME) SECTION XI, INSERVICE INSPECTION
PROGRAM - REVISION TO REQUEST FOR RELIEF 3-ISI-11 (TAC NO.
MB2560)

TVA submitted, by letter dated August 13, 2001, request for relief 3-ISI-11 for the BFN Unit 3 ASME Section XI Inservice Inspection Program for the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant.

Request for relief 3-ISI-11 uses the requirements of ASME Code Case N-648-1, "Alternative Requirements for Inner Radius Examination of Class 1 Reactor Vessel Nozzles, Section XI, Division I," for examination of the BFN Unit 3 reactor pressure vessel nozzles using a visual (VT-1) examination rather than the Code prescribed volumetric examination. During its review of request for relief 3-ISI-11, the NRC staff identified a question regarding TVA's proposed alternative examination.

TVA and the NRC staff held a teleconference on December 6, 2001, to discuss the NRC's question. During that teleconference, the NRC staff questioned whether TVA's proposed visual (VT-1) examination was a direct visual exam or a remote visual exam. TVA stated that the examinations for the RPV head vent and spare nozzles (N7, N6A, and N6B) were intended to be conducted using a direct visual examination performed in accordance with ASME Section XI, VT-1 requirements.

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This letter provides confirmation of the discussions held between TVA and the NRC staff in the December 6, 2001, teleconference. TVA will update the BFN Unit 3 ASME Section XI, ISI Program to explicitly show that the visual examination of the RPV head nozzles (N7, N6A and N6B) is conducted using a direct visual examination performed in accordance with ASME Section XI, VT-1 requirements.

As stated in our letter dated August 13, 2001, TVA requests review of request for relief 3-ISI-11 by January 31, 2002, to support the Unit 3 Cycle 10 (Spring 2002) refueling outage.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (256) 729-2636.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "T. E. Abney", is written over the printed name and title.

T. E. Abney
Manager of Licensing
and Industry Affairs

cc: See Page 3

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(Via NRC Electronic Distribution)
cc: Mr. Paul E. Fredrickson, Branch Chief
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