

September 20, 2005

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

SUBJECT: BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 1 — ACCEPTANCE REVIEW
RESULTS OF LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST REGARDING REVISION TO
CONTROL ROD SCRAM TIME TESTING FREQUENCY (TS-450)
(TAC NO. MC8036)

Dear Mr. Singer:

By letter dated July 29, 2005, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), the licensee, submitted an amendment request for Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant Units 1, 2, and 3. The proposed amendment would extend the technical specification (TS) surveillance testing frequency for control rod drive (CRD) scram times from 120 days cumulative operation in Mode 1 to 200 cumulative days. The licensee indicated that this change was submitted consistent with the Consolidated Line Item Improvement Process (CLIIP) model application. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued a *Federal Register* Notice (69 FR 30339) on May 27, 2004. In this Notice, the NRC indicated that “. . . each licensee . . . to address the plant specific information identified in the model SE . . . should demonstrate the reliability of the control rod insertion system based on historical control rod scram time test data, and by the more restrictive acceptance criterion for the number of slow rods allowed during at-power testing.”

Browns Ferry Unit 1 has been shut down since 1985, and is scheduled to return to service in 2007. The submittal indicates that the

. . . Unit 1 CRD system is being refurbished and will undergo extensive system testing prior to return to service and scram time testing will be conducted in accordance with TS . . . it is expected that the Unit 1 CRD scram time performance will be equal to or better than the Units 2/3 performance.

The NRC staffs finds that the information presented for Unit 1 does not support review of this request under the CLIIP, as no actual plant-specific data for Unit 1 was provided. However, TVA may propose an alternative approach for Unit 1 in a separate submittal using the routine

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TS change process. The NRC staff notes that the information for Units 2 and 3 appears adequate to proceed with the NRC staff's review.

This completes the NRC staff's review of the Unit 1 portion of the July 29, 2005, submittal under TAC No. MC8036. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Bhalchandra Vaidya at (301) 415-3308.

Sincerely,

/RA by Douglas V. Pickett for/

Michael L. Marshall, Jr., Chief, Section 2
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-259

cc: See next page

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Mr. Karl W. Singer
Tennessee Valley Authority

BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT

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