

March 2, 2006

LICENSEE: Tennessee Valley Authority

FACILITIES: Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Units 1, 2, and 3

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF FEBRUARY 13, 2006, TELEPHONE CONFERENCE WITH THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY REGARDING THE BROWNS FERRY EXTENDED POWER UPRATE AMENDMENT REQUESTS (TAC NOS. MC3812, MC3743, MC3744)

On February 13, 2006, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff conducted a telephone conference with Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA, the licensee). The objective of the meeting was to discuss technical items and the schedule for TVA to furnish the information necessary for the NRC staff to complete their review of TVA's requested Extended Power Uprate (EPU). The meeting was open to the general public. Enclosure 1 contains a list of NRC participants, and Enclosure 2 is a list of the TVA participants. Enclosure 3 is a copy of TVA's presentation materials.

BACKGROUND

By letter dated June 28, 2004, TVA submitted an amendment request for Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant (BFN) Unit 1. The proposed amendment would change the BFN Unit 1, operating license to increase the maximum authorized power level from 3293 megawatts thermal (MWt) to 3952 MWt. This change represents an increase of approximately 20 percent above the current maximum authorized power level. Similarly in a letter dated June 25, 2004, TVA submitted an amendment request for BFN, Units 2 and 3. The proposed amendment would change the BFN, Units 2 and 3, operating licenses to increase the maximum authorized power level from 3458 MWt to 3952 MWt. This change represents an increase of approximately 15 percent above the current maximum authorized power level. The licensee has chosen to implement the EPU on Unit 1 in 2007, Unit 2 in 2007, and Unit 3 in 2008.

The NRC staff informed TVA of the information necessary to complete the application by letters dated November 18, 2004, and issued the first Request for Additional Information (RAI) in letters dated December 30, 2004 (for the Unit 1 application) and December 29, 2004 (for the Units 2 and 3 application). In submittals dated February 23, 2005, and April 25, 2005, TVA supplied the information requested by the NRC staff to complete the applications. The NRC staff accepted TVA's application and began its technical review of the applications on May 27, 2005.

TVA submitted a response to the first RAI on June 6, 2005. The NRC staff issued a second set of RAI's on October 3, 2005. TVA responded to most of the questions via letters dated December 19, 2005. The NRC staff issued the third set of RAI's on December 22, 2005.

DISCUSSION

TVA presented an overview of their planned actions for the following topics:

Steam Dryers

To address the NRC staff's questions regarding the effects of the uprated conditions on the steam dryers, TVA's actions include benchmarking, scale model testing, stress analysis, and development of limit curves for steam line monitoring during power ascension.

Containment Overpressure Credit

TVA described their plans for resolving the NRC staff's questions regarding Containment Overpressure Credit for Emergency Core Cooling System Pump Net Positive Suction Head Requirements. The NRC staff reminded the licensee that, although they were pursuing a similar approach to that used successfully by Entergy in the Vermont Yankee Power Uprate application, the approach would need to be customized so that it was clearly applicable to the Browns Ferry plants.

Fuel Analysis Methods

TVA described their plans for addressing the NRC staff's questions regarding fuel analysis methods. TVA mentioned their intent to attach or reference a draft topical report in their planned RAI response. The NRC staff cautioned TVA that their response should be standalone and should not be reliant on a draft topical report. TVA also stated their intent to employ a 0.02 Minimum Critical Power Ratio penalty. The NRC staff cautioned TVA to clearly demonstrate that this was a conservative penalty value for the Browns Ferry facility.

Unit 1 Transient Testing

TVA also summarized their basis for stating that certain transient testing for the uprated conditions is not required for Unit 1. TVA will be providing more information on their basis in the upcoming response to the NRC staff's RAI.

Responses to RAIs

TVA confirmed their intent to formally submit a response by March 7, 2006, to the NRC staff's third set of RAI's, issued on December 22, 2005. TVA also confirmed their response schedule for the remaining questions from the staff's second set of RAI's.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the NRC stated that the staff is still evaluating the schedule for review of the Browns Ferry Extended Power Uprate. No regulatory decisions were made by the NRC staff during the proceedings.

/RA/

Margaret H. Chernoff, Project Manager
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Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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

Enclosures: 1. List of NRC Participants
2. List of TVA Participants
3. TVA Handout

cc w/encls: See next page

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February 13, 2006

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Telephone Conference with NRC
February 13, 2006

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