

August 8, 2006

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

SUBJECT: WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 1 — WITHDRAWAL OF LICENSE
AMENDMENT REQUEST TS-04-13 (TAC NO. MC4586)

Dear Mr. Singer:

By application dated September 23, 2004 (TS-04-13), and supplemented by letter dated May 25, 2006, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA, the licensee) applied for an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-90 for the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 1 (WBN). Subsequently, by letter dated July 28, 2006, you withdrew the amendment request.

The proposed changes would modify Technical Specification (TS) Table 3.3.2-1, "Engineered Safety Feature Actuation System Instrumentation," Item 6.e, "Trip of All Main Feedwater Pumps." Automatic actuation of the auxiliary feedwater (AFW) system following a trip of all main feedwater (MFW) pumps as required by Item 6.e of TS Table 3.3.2, provides early actuation of the AFW system in anticipation of a complete loss of MFW. The current TS requires this function to be operable in Modes 1 and 2. TVA proposed to modify Item 6.e to only apply to a trip of all turbine driven main feedwater (TDMFW) pumps and to modify the Mode applicability with a note that states: "Not required unless one or more turbine driven main feedwater pumps are operating."

TVA indicated that a motor driven standby main feedwater (SBMFW) pump is normally used for plant startup and shutdown at WBN, and that the TDMFW pumps are typically started when the plant reaches about 18 percent power. The licensee's practice is to enable the TDMFW pump trip/AFW automatic actuation circuitry prior to entering Mode 2 so that the operability requirement specified by TS Table 3.3.2 Item 6.e is satisfied even though automatic AFW actuation could not occur unless the TDMFW pumps are operating. The licensee proposed the TS changes so that the trip function could be made operable later during plant startup when there are less demands on plant operators. While the license amendment request stated that the proposed changes were necessary because the current TS requires the TDMFW pump trip/AFW actuation function to be operable before sufficient steam is available for operating a TDMFW pump, the amount of steam that is required for operating a TDMFW pump was not addressed.

During the review process the NRC staff had several discussions with the licensee and sought clarification regarding the licensee's statement that sufficient steam flow to operate the TDMFW pumps is not available until the plant reaches approximately 18 percent power; the current licensing basis relative to the requirements that are specified by TS Table 3.3.2 Item 6.e and

K. Singer

- 2 -

the basis for those requirements including defense-in-depth considerations; and the licensee's practice of using the SBMFW pump in lieu of the TDMFW pumps in Modes 1 and 2 and how the lack of an automatic AFW actuation signal satisfies the requirements that are specified by the TSs. As a result of the NRC staff's concerns, TVA submitted a withdrawal of this request.

The Commission has filed the enclosed Notice of Withdrawal of Application for Amendment to Facility Operating License with the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Douglas V. Pickett, Senior Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch II-2
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-390

Enclosure: Notice of Withdrawal

cc w/encl: See next page

K. Singer

- 2 -

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Mr. Karl W. Singer
Tennessee Valley Authority

WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

DOCKET NO. 50-390

NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION FOR

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has granted the request of the Tennessee Valley Authority (the licensee) to withdraw its September 23, 2004, application for proposed amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-90 for the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit No. 1, located in Rhea County, Tennessee.

The proposed amendment would have revised Technical Specification Table 3.3.2-1, "Engineered Safety Feature Actuation System Instrumentation," to allow the auxiliary feedwater start signal upon trip of all main feedwater pumps to be required only when one or more of the turbine driven main feedwater pumps are operating.

The Commission had previously issued a Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on December 7, 2004 (69 FR 70722). However, by letter dated July 28, 2006, the licensee withdrew the proposed change.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated September 23, 2004, as supplemented by letter dated May 25, 2006, and the licensee's letter dated July 28, 2006, which withdrew the application for license amendment. Documents may be examined, and/or copied for a fee, at the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, Public File Area O1 F21, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland. Publicly available records will be accessible electronically from the Agencywide Documents Access and Management Systems (ADAMS) Public Electronic Reading Room on the internet at the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm.html>. Persons who do not

have access to ADAMS or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS should contact the NRC PDR Reference staff by telephone at 1-800-397-4209, or 301-415-4737 or by email to pdr@nrc.gov.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 8th day of August, 2006.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

Douglas V. Pickett, Senior Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch II-2
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation