

## **NRR-PMDAPEm Resource**

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**From:** Wang, Alan  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2016 11:32 AM  
**To:** Casey, Kevin E; garent@tva.gov  
**Cc:** Clayton, Beverly; Schaaf, Robert  
**Subject:** Acceptance of Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 2 Request for Relief WBN-2/PSI-4 (MF7447)

Gordon and Kevin,

by letter dated March 11, 2016 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML16074A274), as supplemented by letter dated March 25, 2016 (ADAM Accession No. ML16085A146) Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA, the licensee) submitted relief request WBN-2/PSI-4 for the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 2 (WBN2). Pursuant to Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) 50.55a, "Codes and Standards," paragraph (z)(1), TVA is requesting the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approval for relief request WBN-2/PSI-4 for an alternative to the requirements of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Operation and Maintenance (OM) Code, 2001 Edition through 2003 Addenda, Subsection ISTD, Section ISTD-4110(d), "Preservice Examination Requirements," for the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant (WBN) Unit 2 Class 2 steam generator (SG) snubbers. TVA has requested this relief request for the SG snubbers during the WBN2 preservice test period up to start of the first WBN2 inservice test interval. The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of this request for relief.

10 CFR 50.55a(f), "Inservice Testing Requirements," requires, in part, that IST of certain ASME Code Class 1, 2, and 3 pumps and valves be performed in accordance with the specified ASME OM Code and applicable addenda incorporated by reference in the regulations. Exceptions are allowed where alternatives have been authorized by the NRC pursuant to paragraphs (z)(1), or (z)(2) of 10 CFR 50.55a. In proposing alternatives, the licensee must demonstrate that: (1) the proposed alternatives provide an acceptable level of quality and safety (10 CFR 50.55a(z)(1)), or (2) compliance would result in hardship or unusual difficulty without a compensating increase in the level of quality and safety (10 CFR 50.55a(z)(2)). Section 50.55a allows the NRC to authorize alternatives from ASME OM Code requirements upon making the necessary findings.

The NRC staff has reviewed your application and concluded that it does provide technical information in sufficient detail to enable the NRC staff to proceed with its detailed technical review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed request for relief in terms of regulatory requirements and the protection of public health and safety and the environment. If additional information is needed for the staff to complete its technical review, you will be advised by separate correspondence.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1445.

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