

NRR-DMPSPeM Resource

From: Saba, Farideh
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 5:02 PM
To: Williams, Gordon Robert (grwilliams1@tva.gov); Hess, Thomas A (tahess@tva.gov); Wells, Russell Douglas
Cc: Schrull, Edward Dustin (edschrull@tva.gov); Schaaf, Robert; Hon, Andrew; Shoop, Undine; Clayton, Beverly; Hammargren, Benjamin John (bjhammargren@tva.gov)
Subject: TVA Nuclear Plants – Acceptance for Review – Application to Modify the TSs for TVA Plants to Resolve BL 2012-01 Issues (EPID: L-2017-LLA-0391)
Importance: High

Gordon, Tom, and Russel

By letter dated November 17, 2017 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML17324A349), the Tennessee Valley Authority submitted a license amendment for Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant Units 1, 2, and 3, Sequoyah Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2, and Watts Bar Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2. The proposed amendment would adding a new level of protection, “Unbalanced Voltage” to the Technical Specifications for the loss of power instrumentation. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Bulletin 2012-01, “Design Vulnerability in Electric Power System,” which requested addressees to submit specific information regarding plant design and operating configurations relative to the regulatory requirements of General Design Criterion 17, “Electric Power Systems.” The Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) notified the NRC that the nuclear industry’s chief nuclear officers approved a formal initiative to address the open phase condition (OPC). Further stated that the initiative represented a formal commitment among nuclear power plant licensees to address the OPC design vulnerability for operating reactors.

The licensee stated, in the LAR, that for this fleet submittal, the primary reason for the proposed change is to provide equipment protection from the effects of an unbalanced voltage in a similar fashion to the existing degraded and loss of voltage protection schemes. The identification of the vulnerability was based on industry operating experience and subsequent commitment to meet the voluntary Nuclear Strategic Issues Advisory Committee Open Phase Industry Initiative, also known as the “Voluntary Industry Initiative” (VII) for GDC 17 Compliance.

The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the NRC staff’s acceptance review of this amendment request. The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review. The acceptance review is also intended to identify whether the application has any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements or the licensing basis of the plant.

Consistent with 10 CFR 50.90, an amendment to the license (including the technical specifications) must fully describe the changes requested, and following as far as applicable, the form prescribed for original applications. Section 50.34 of 10 CFR addresses the content of technical information required. This section stipulates that the submittal address the design and operating characteristics, unusual or novel design features, and principal safety considerations.

Based on the information provided in your submittal, the NRC staff has estimated that this licensing request will take approximately 585 hours to complete. The NRC staff expects to complete this review by September 30, 2018, as requested in the November 17, 2017 letter. If there are emergent complexities or challenges in our review that would cause changes to the initial forecasted completion date or significant changes in the forecasted hours, the reasons for the changes, along with the new estimates, will be communicated during the routine interactions with the assigned project manager.

These estimates are based on the NRC staff's initial review of the application and they could change, due to several factors including requests for additional information, unanticipated addition of scope to the review, and review by NRC advisory committees or hearing-related activities.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 301-415-1447.

Thanks,

Farideh

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