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

Tennessee Valley Authority
ATTN: Mr. Godwin Williams, Jr.
Manager of Power
818 Power Building
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37201

Gentlemen:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment Nos. 31, 28 and 6 to Facility License Nos. DPR-33, DPR-52 and DPR-68 for the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Unit Nos. 1, 2 and 3. These amendments consist of changes to the Technical Specifications in response to your request of July 15, 1977. You were previously notified of these changes by telephone and telecopy on July 15, 1977.

These amendments revise the Environmental Technical Specification 2.1 contained in Appendix B to the licenses. The change would temporarily increase the maximum temperature measured at the 5 foot depth of the downstream control point from 86 F to 90 F. The amendments do not involve significant new safety information of a type not considered by a previous Commission safety review of the facility. They do not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident, do not involve a significant decrease in a safety margin, and therefore do not involve a significant hazards consideration. We have also concluded that there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by this action.

Copies of the Environmental Impact Appraisal and the Notice of Issuance/Negative Declaration are also enclosed.

Sincerely,

Thomas V Wambach

for A. Schwencer, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #1
Division of Operating Reactors

Construction
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Enclosures and cc:
See next page

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OFFICE➤	DOR:ORB#1	OELD	DOR:OT	DOR:ORB#1		
SURNAME➤	TVWambach:lb			ASchwencer		
DATE➤	7/27/77	7/ /77	7/ /77	7/ /77		

AUG 1 8 1977

Enclosures:
1. Amendment No. 31 to DPR-33
2. Amendment No. 28 to DPR-52
3. Amendment No. 6 to DPR-68
4. Environmental Impact Appraisal
5. Notice of Issuance / Negative Declaration

cc w/encl:
H. S. Sanger, Jr., Esquire
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Mr. Charles R. Christopher
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Post Office Box 188
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Chief, Energy Systems
Analysis Branch (AW-459)
Office of Radiation Programs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
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Washington, D.C. 20460

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region IV Office
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345 Courtland Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

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DRoss
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DATE➤	7/22/77	7/ /77	7/ /77	7/ /77		

AUG 1 8 1977

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

August 18, 1977

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

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ATTN: Mr. Godwin Williams, Jr.
Manager of Power
818 Power Building
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37201

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These amendments revise the Environmental Technical Specification 2.1 contained in Appendix B to the licenses. The change would temporarily increase the maximum temperature measured at the 5 foot depth of the downstream control point from 86 F to 90 F. The amendments do not involve significant new safety information of a type not considered by a previous Commission safety review of the facility. They do not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident, do not involve a significant decrease in a safety margin, and therefore do not involve a significant hazards consideration. We have also concluded that there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by this action.

Copies of the Environmental Impact Appraisal and the Notice of Issuance/ Negative Declaration are also enclosed.

Sincerely,

J. V. Wambach

for A. Schwencer, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #1
Division of Operating Reactors

Enclosures and cc:
See next page

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345 Courtland Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

DOCKET NO. 50-259

BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT NO. 1

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 31
License No. DPR-33

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:

   A. The application for amendment by Tennessee Valley Authority (the licensee) dated July 15, 1977, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;

   B. The faciilty will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;

   C. There is reasonable assurance (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations;

   D. The issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and

   E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.

2. Accordingly, the license is amended by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment and paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility License No. DPR-33 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"(2) Technical Specifications

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendices A and B, as revised through Amendment No. 31 , are hereby incorporated in the license. The licensee shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications."

3. This license amendment is effective as of July 15, 1977.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

V. V. Wambach
for A. Schwencer, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #1
Division of Operating Reactors

Attachment:
Changes to the Technical
Specifications

Date of Issuance: August 18, 1977

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

DOCKET NO. 50-260

BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT NO. 2

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 28
License No. DPR-52

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:

   A. The application for amendment by Tennessee Valley Authority (the licensee) dated July 15, 1977, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;

   B. The faciilty will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;

   C. There is reasonable assurance (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations;

   D. The issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and

   E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.

2. Accordingly, the license is amended by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment and paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility License No. DPR-52 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"(2) Technical Specifications

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendices A and B, as revised through Amendment No. 28 , are hereby incorporated in the license. The licensee shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications."

3. This license amendment is effective as of July 15, 1977.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

J. V. Wambach

for A. Schwencer, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #1
Division of Operating Reactors

Attachment:
Changes to the Technical
Specifications

Date of Issuance: August 18, 1977

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

DOCKET NO. 50-296

BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT NO. 3

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 6
License No. DPR-68

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:

   A. The application for amendment by Tennessee Valley Authority (the licensee) dated July 15, 1977, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;

   B. The faciilty will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;

   C. There is reasonable assurance (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations;

   D. The issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and

   E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.

2. Accordingly, the license is amended by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment and paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility License No. DPR-68 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"(2) Technical Specifications

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendices A and B, as revised through Amendment No. 6 , are hereby incorporated in the license. The licensee shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications."

3. This license amendment is effective as of July 15, 1977.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

J. V. Wambach
for A. Schwencer, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #1
Division of Operating Reactors

Attachment:
Changes to the Technical
Specifications

Date of Issuance: August 18, 1977

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENTS

AMENDMENT NO. 31 TO FACILITY LICENSE NO. DPR-33

AMENDMENT NO. 28 TO FACILITY LICENSE NO. DPR-52

AMENDMENT NO. 6 TO FACILITY LICENSE NO. DPR-68

DOCKET NOS. 50-259, 50-260 AND 50-296

Revise Appendix B as follows:

Remove pages 2 and 3 and replace with identically numbered pages.

2.0 LIMITING CONDITIONS FOR OPERATION

2.1 THERMAL DISCHARGE LIMITS

Objective

The purpose of this specification is to limit the thermal stress on aquatic life in Wheeler Reservoir by operating Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant so as to meet the applicable water quality temperature standards of the State of Alabama.

Specification

The plant-induced reservoir water temperature at the 5-foot depth at the downstream control point shall not exceed the water temperature measured at the 5-foot depth of the upstream control monitor by more than the applicable maximum temperature rise (currently 5°F) nor shall the reservoir water temperature measured at the 5-foot depth at the downstream control point exceed the applicable maximum water temperature (currently 86°F * †) due to the discharge of the condenser cooling water. If this limiting condition is exceeded, the plant operator shall initiate control measures. The control measures shall be (1) to reduce the waste heat discharged to the reservoir and/or (2) to request modifications in the releases from TVA's Guntersville and/or Wheeler Dams to increase the streamflow by the Browns Ferry plant.

*During a special diffuser performance study during the summer of 1977 (anticipated completion in June 1977), a meximum temperature rise of 10° F, and a maximum water temperature of 90° F, both recorded at the 5-foot depth, will be permitted for a time not to exceed a cumulative total of 7 days.

†During the interim until August 31, 1977, the maximum water temperature allowed shall be 90°F.

Monitoring Requirement

The water temperature data collected by the thermal monitoring network is telemetered to the Browns Ferry meteorological station. The meteorological station will receive the data and automatically record the readings every 60 minutes. All temperature data are recorded on paper tape and maintained for record keeping purposes. The 5-foot depth temperature data which are used to prevent exceeding the limiting condition will be transmitted to the control room and will be visually displayed for monitoring purposes. The accuracy of the system and the sensitivity of the thermistor sensors are designed to be ± 0.3°F and 0.01°F, respectively.

Three thermal monitors spaced across the reservoir in the vicinity of river mile 292.5 shall serve as the downstream control. Two monitors located above the plant, one located at about river mile 297.6, and a second located in this vicinity will provide the upstream water temperature data. The system is designed so that the downstream control monitors serve as backup for one another and similarly for the two upstream monitors. The locations of existing temperature monitors are displayed in Figure 2.1-1.

In the event the system described is out of service, an alternate method will be employed three times a day (once each shift) to measure the river temperature at the 5-foot depth in the vicinity of the upstream and downstream control monitors and thus determine the temperature rise and the maximum river water temperature below the plant. When such a method would result in an imminent and substantial endangerment to the safety of personnel, this paragraph shall not apply.

2.1 Continued

Bases

TVA, as a Federal agency, is required by Section 313 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 (P.L. 92-500) and by Executive Order 11507, "Prevention, Control and Abatement of Air and Water Pollution at Federal Facilities," to meet applicable Federal, state, and local water quality standards. On July 17, 1972, the State of Alabama adopted and on September 19, 1972, the Environmental Protection Agency approved thermal criteria for surface waters in the State of Alabama. The current applicable thermal standards are to limit the maximum temperature rise above natural temperature before the addition of artificial heat to 5°F and the maximum water temperature to 86°F. In the application of this temperature criteria the temperature shall be measured, in the case of Wheeler Reservoir, at a depth of 5 feet. The higher temperature limits during the special diffuser performance study during the summer of 1977 will be for brief periods and will not adversely affect the environment.

The Tennessee Valley Authority has taken action to comply with applicable thermal water quality standards of the State of Alabama in the operation of the 3-unit Browns Ferry facility by installing mechanical draft cooling towers. However, inadequate cooling tower performance has resulted in drastic curtailment of power generation during summer periods when peak load demands are critical on the TVA system to meet thermal standards.

The Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant Environmental Statement analyzed the environmental effects of operating the plant with a 10°F rise and 93°F maximum temperature limitation. This evaluation concluded that the 10°F and 93°F limitations would be adequate to protect aquatic life except for coldwater fishes. To protect the spawning habitats of the coldwater fish species, limits of 5°F rise and 86°F maximum temperature were imposed. Recent data indicate that the spawning grounds of these fishes are not located in areas influenced by the thermal plume, thus a 90°F maximum temperature limit is allowed until August 31, 1977. A full review will be made to determine what permanent limits will be imposed.

TVA has requested from EPA and the State of Alabama that the maximum temperature limitation be increased to 90°F. The EPA has granted a stay of the 86°F limit pending their decision on whether to grant or deny an adjudicatory hearing in this matter. In discussions with the Alabama Water Improvement Commission, State water quality officials also indicated concurrence with the stay of the 86°F limit.

All systems described for thermal discharge limits will be operational prior to any significant discharge of waste heat. The placement of the temperature monitoring instruments shall be such that compliance with water quality criteria will be demonstrated. The placement of the temperature sensors at the 5-foot depth in the waters of Wheeler Reservoir is in accordance with the requirements of the water quality criteria of the State of Alabama. The temperature data is converted to digital data at the station on the reservoir. The transmission, computer storage, and monitoring system is being used at other facilities and has performed accurately and reliably.

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT APPRAISAL BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

SUPPORTING AMENDMENT NOS. 31 , 28 AND 6 TO

FACILITY LICENSE NOS. DPR-33, DPR-52 AND DPR-68

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1, 2 AND 3

DOCKET NOS. 50-259, 50-260 AND 50-296

Description of Proposed Action

By letter dated July 15, 1977, telecopied to NRC headquarters, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) requested changes to the thermal discharge limits (Section 2.1) in Appendix B to Facility Operating Licenses DPR-33, DPR-52 and DPR-68 for Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Units 1, 2 and 3. This request was further supported by information telecopied on July 15, 1977, which related to the location of spawning areas of certain cold water species and the amount of egg and larva samples collected in field monitoring programs for these species.

Their proposed change would allow an increase in the downstream control point maximum water temperature from 86°F to 90°F. The licensee has had problems meeting the 86°F limit because of poor cooling tower performance. This higher temperature will cause slightly larger thermal plumes downstream of the plant and upstream at the plant under low stream flow conditions. Also, during low flow conditions, it is likely that a 90°F or greater thermal blockage will be formed when the discharge temperature control point measures 90°F. The Browns Ferry Nuclear Station National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit also contains a maximum discharge temperature limitation of 86°F. TVA requested relief from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the NPDES permit 86°F limit by asking that an adjudicatory hearing be granted which would stay this contested provision. By letter dated July 15, 1977,1/ EPA granted a stay to the maximum discharge temperature but did not grant or deny the request for adjudicatory hearing. The EPA letter further required that when the ambient upstream temperature exceeds 81°F the maximum discharge temperature shall not exceed 90°F as measured at the downstream control point.

Evaluation

Wheeler Reservoir, on which the Browns Ferry Units are located, contains primarily warm water fish fauna considered typical of southeastern U.S. reservoirs. It also contains three typically cold water species, namely, walleye, sauger, and smallmouth bass.2/ These cold water species have been the focus of previous reviews and because of this, thermal limits were established after preparation of the draft environmental impact statement to assure protection of these species. The most critical period for each of these species is during spawning periods. High temperature is known to inhibit spawning of cold water fishes of some species. Furthermore, all states of growth (from eggs through juvenile) of most cold water species have been shown to be sensitive to abnormally high temperatures.

The July 15, 1977 information telecopied from TVA describes the location of Wheeler Reservoir spawning areas of the above three species. The data indicate that no significant spawning activity occurs in the vicinity of the plant or in the area of the influence of the thermal plume, nor are significant densities of fish eggs and larvae found in these areas. The data indicate that the smallmouth bass spawn in other areas scattered throughout the reservoir, that the sauger spawn mainly in the tailraces of dams in the winter, and that no substantial presence of walleye spawning has been observed. On this basis, we judge that there will be no significant impact to these species in Wheeler Reservoir over the time proposed for the specification change.

Other forms of biota in the reservoir, including warm water fishes, were evaluated in the FES for a maximum discharge temperature of 93°F. That evaluation found that the impact was acceptable. We conclude that that finding is still valid.

On the basis of the above analysis, and on the basis that TVA provide detailed written supporting information as soon as possible we conclude that the information provided by TVA is adequate to support an interim increase in the maximum temperature limit at the downstream control point to 90°F until August 31, 1977. This information was received July 26, 1977, and our examination of it confirms the acceptability of the interim increase. An NRC license condition provides that the water quality standards of the State of Alabama must be observed by the licensee. In this regard, the State of Alabama orally on July 15, 1977, and by letter dated July 19, 1977, informed the licensee that the temperature increase to 90°F for an interim period was acceptable. Since EPA will also be evaluating the long term impacts of operation at temperatures above 86°F as stated in their July 15, 1977 letter to TVA, we will coordinate our review with EPA.

Conclusion and Basis for Negative Declaration

On the basis of the foregoing analysis, it is concluded that there will be no significant environmental impact attributable to the proposed action. Having made this conclusion the Commission has further concluded that no environmental impact statement for the proposed action need be prepared and that a negative declaration to this effect is appropriate.

Date: August 18, 1977

REFERENCES

1. Letter from Howard Zeller of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to Herbert S. Sanger of Tennessee Valley Authority dated July 15, 1977.

2. Letter from Tennessee Valley Authority to Mr. Howard Zeller of the U.S.Environmental Protection Agency dated April 19, 1973.

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

DOCKET NOS. 50-259, 50-260 AND 50-296

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENTS TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSES

AND

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has issued Amendment No. 31 to Facility Operating License No. DPR-33, Amendment No. 28 to Facility Operating License No. DPR-52, and Amendment No. 6 to Facility Operating License No. DPR-68 issued to Tennessee Valley Authority (the licensee), which revised Technical Specifications for operation of the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Unit Nos. 1, 2 & 3 (the facility), located in Limestone County, Alabama. The amendments were effective as of July 15, 1977, because of the circumstances involved in plant operation as a consequence of cooling tower operation. Formal issuance of the license amendments occurred on August 18, 1977.

These amendments revise the Environmental Technical Specification 2.1 contained in Appendix B to the licenses. The change would temporarily increase the maximum temperature measured at the 5 foot depth of the downstream control point from 86°F to 90°F.

The application for the amendments complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations. The Commission has made appropriate findings as required by the Act and the Commission's rules and regulations in 10 CFR Chapter I, which are set forth in the license amendments. Prior public notice of these amendments was not required since the amendments do not involve a significant hazards consideration.

The Commission has prepared an Environmental Impact Appraisal for the revised Technical Specifications and has concluded that an environmental impact statement for this particular action is not warranted because there will be no significant environmental impact attributable to the action.

For further details with respect to this action, see (1) the application for amendments dated July 15, 1977, (2) Amendment No. 31 to License No. DPR-33, Amendment No. 28 to License No. DPR-52, and Amendment No. 6 to License No. DPR-68, and (3) the Commission's Environmental Impact Appraisal. All of these items are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, NW., Washington, D.C. and at the Athens Public Library, South and Forrest, Athens, Alabama 35611. A copy of items (2) and (3) may be obtained upon request addressed to the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, Attention: Director, Division of Operating Reactors.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 18th day of August 1977.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Thomas V. Wambach

Thomas V. Wambach, Acting Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #1
Division of Operating Reactors