

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37401
400 Chestnut Street Tower II

July 20, 1979

Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Attention: Mr. Thomas A. Ippolito, Chief
Branch No. 3
Division of Operating Reactors
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Ippolito:

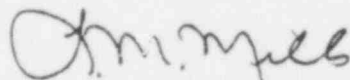
In the Matter of the) Docket No. 50-259
Tennessee Valley Authority)

Please refer to your safety evaluation supporting Amendment No. 48 to license DPR-33 for Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant unit 1 dated February 8, 1979. Within the above safety evaluation, TVA is committed to submit to the NRC a proposal for response time testing of the recirculation pump trip (RPT) system at Browns Ferry.

TVA has investigated the need for periodic response time testing of the RPT system. Our investigations have concluded that, based on the quality of the system, minimal degradation of system performance is expected over prolonged service. There are two RPT breakers in series with each recirculation pump. Therefore, in order to lengthen the current interrupt time to a pump, each breaker would have to suffer sensible degradation in cycle time. Discernible malfunctions in the RPT system will be detected during the monthly logic tests or the breaker functional surveillance. Therefore, we believe that further response time testing for this system at each refueling is unnecessary.

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY



L. M. Mills, Manager
Nuclear Regulation and Safety

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