

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37401

400 Chestnut Street Tower II

July 9, 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 letter to H. G. Parris of TVA dated March 1, 1979, concerning the small possibility of reactor vessel atypical weld material being used during the manufacture of Browns Ferry unit 1 reactor vessel. In that letter you stated that final resolution of this matter was expected by sometime in June of 1979, and that TVA should continue to apply the administrative revised minimum boltup temperature of 130°F (instead of 100°F). By a TVA letter dated May 29, 1979, from J. E. Gilleland to James P. O'Reilly (NRC, Region II) which was in response to IE Bulletins 78-12, 78-12A, 78-12B, we concurred with the Babcock & Wilcox (B&W) conclusion (presented in J. H. Taylor's March 13, 1979, letter of B&W to W. G. Reinmuth of NRC) that it is very unlikely for atypical weld wire to have been used during fabrication of the unit 1 reactor vessel.

Based on the above information, we believe that the subject of possible atypical weld wire in unit 1 has been adequately addressed. We, therefore, request your concurrence in shifting the 130°F minimum boltup temperature back to 100°F as required by current technical specifications for full tensioning. If we can be of further assistance in expediting this request, please get in touch with us.

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

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L. M. Mills, Manager
Nuclear Regulation and Safety

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