

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37401
400 Chestnut Street Tower II

November 13, 1979

Mr. D. G. Eisenhower, Acting Director
Division of Operating Reactors
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Eisenhower:

Your letter to All Light Water Reactors dated September 27, 1979, requested that TVA commit to implement a containment purge valve qualification program on an expedited basis. In response to a letter from T. A. Ippolito to N. B. Hughes dated November 29, 1978, we initiated a program of analysis to demonstrate the structural adequacy of the purge valves installed at the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant. Numerous problems and delays were encountered since the valve manufacturer was able to provide very little assistance. The program and results were presented to the NRC staff in a meeting on June 1, 1979. By letter from J. E. Gilleland to T. A. Ippolito dated June 12, 1979, we submitted the results of our valve analysis and general information including a general description of purge activities; the basis of inerting and for purging; the purge history at the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant; and the impact of restricted purge operations on availability of power. The results of those analyses proved that the containment purge valves are adequately qualified to meet the guidelines as presented in your letter dated September 27, 1979.

In view of the June 1, 1979, meeting and the submittals made on the Browns Ferry docket we believe we have been responsive to NRC's concerns regarding containment purging.

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

L. M. Mills by mail

L. M. Mills, Manager
Nuclear Regulation and Safety

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