

TO: TOM ZAPPOLITO
7613

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37401
400 Chestnut Street Tower II

FROM: JIM DOW
TVA
857-3259

July 18, 1980

Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Denton:

In the Matter of the
Tennessee Valley Authority

Bracket Nos. 30-239
30-260
30-298

Action Item 2 of the Office of Inspection and Enforcement Bulletin 80-17, dated July 3, 1980, requires that one manual and one automatic scram be performed and that certain data be taken for each unit at the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant within 20 days. The 20-day time period started at 12:01 A.M. on July 8, 1980. By letter from J. P. O'Reilly to H. G. Parria dated July 8, 1980, we were informed that if the scram tests required by the bulletin would cause a severe impact on power reliability to promptly notify the NRR Licensing Project Manager. This letter is to formally request an extension to the time for performing the bulletin item 2 scram tests until August 11, 1980. The reasons why this extension is needed are outlined below.

Because of the heat wave being experienced by the country at the present time, TVA is in a very critical situation in meeting the daily power system load demands. These daily load demands are consistently running extremely high. An all time record high for total TVA system load occurred today. With each subsequent day of continued high temperature system load increases. The problem is so severe that TVA has declared that a condition of power emergency exists in the TVA region and has asked for voluntary energy conservation by power consumers. The next step under consideration is interruption of the power supply to large industries. The problem of high system demand is compounded by several of TVA's larger coal fired generating units being out-of-service for unscheduled maintenance and repair. TVA has cut the power supply to DOE and has been purchasing as much power from neighboring utilities as there is to be purchased. However, the high loads being experienced by neighboring utilities make the continued purchase of electricity uncertain. Removing a Browns Ferry unit from power operation to perform the bulletin item 2 tests at this time very probably would result in the forced interruption of industrial loads and reduction of system voltage to meet the remaining demand.

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We request an extension of the deadline for performance of the IEB Bulletin 80-17 action item 2. ~~At least biweekly, until~~ scram tests on Units 1&2 until August 11, 1980. If this extension can be granted, TVA will take the following compensatory actions on Units 1&2:

1. Provide continuous monitoring of the six-inch scram discharge volume low points by use of installed ultrasonic sensors. The continuous monitoring capability will be provided by July 28, 1980.
2. Provide a positive atmospheric vent for east and west scram discharge volume vent piping. Vents to be provided by July 28, 1980.
3. Provide instructions to operating personnel that specify actions to be taken when water is detected in the scram discharge volume.

These actions are similar to those taken in returning Unit 3 to service and are documented in a July 13, 1980, letter from J. P. O'Reilly to H. G. Parrie.

Should the present heat wave abate or sufficient coal fired generation become available we would perform the Action item 2 tests as soon as practical.

We request that you inform us of your position regarding this matter as expeditiously as possible. In order to comply with the 20-day requirement for scram testing of Unit 1 and 2, we would be required to begin testing on the first unit the evening of July 18 to take advantage of the reduced load situation over the weekend. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

E. M. Miles

E. M. Miles, Manager
Nuclear Regulation and Safety

cc: Mr. James P. O'Reilly, Director
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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