



Tennessee Valley Authority, Post Office Box 2000, Decatur, Alabama 35609-2000

February 5, 1997

TVA-BFN-TS-388

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Gentlemen:

In the Matter of)	Docket Nos. 50-259
Tennessee Valley Authority)	50-260
		50-296

**BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT (BFN) - UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 -
REVISION TO TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION (TS) BASES (TS-388)**

The purpose of this letter is to inform NRC of changes TVA has made to the BFN Units 1, 2, and 3 TS Bases. TVA revised Bases Section 3.7.A/4.7.A, "Primary Containment," to delete wording regarding maintaining the drywell to suppression chamber differential pressure constant for the duration of the drywell to suppression chamber leak test to allow performance using an acceptable alternative testing methodology. Although the methodology discussed in the bases provides suitable data for verifying that the leakage is within limits, it requires makeup to the drywell during the test to maintain the pressure differential constant. Equivalent results can be achieved by establishing an initial differential pressure and allowing it to decay during the test and ensuring the final differential pressure is greater than one psi. This methodology does not require makeup and would allow the test to be conducted with minimal resources. Eliminating makeup for this test is consistent with the methodology described in NUREG-1433, BWR/4 Standard Technical Specifications.

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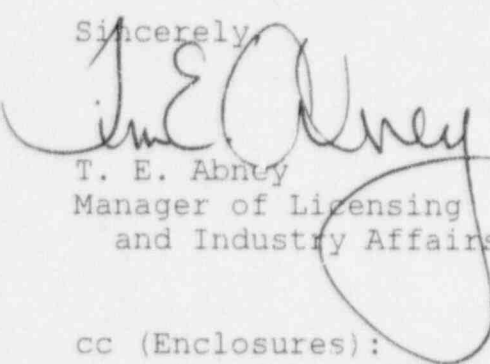
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Enclosure 1 to this letter provides the description and reason for these changes. Enclosure 2 contains copies of the appropriate TS Bases pages from Unit 1, 2, and 3 marked-up to show the changes. Enclosure 3 forwards the revised TS Bases pages for Units 1, 2, and 3.

There are no new commitments contained in this letter. If you have any questions, please contact me at (205) 729-2636.

Sincerely,



T. E. Abney
Manager of Licensing
and Industry Affairs

cc (Enclosures):

Mr. Johnny Black, Chairman
Limestone County Commission
310 West Washington Street
Athens, Alabama 35611

Mr. Mark S. Lesser, Branch Chief
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region II
101 Marietta Street, NW, Suite 2900
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

NRC Resident Inspector
Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant
10833 Shaw Road
Athens, Alabama 35611

Mr. Joseph F. Williams, Project Manager
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
One White Flint, North
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dr. Donald E. Williamson
State Health Officer
Alabama State Department of Public Health
434 Monroe Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-3017

ENCLOSURE 1

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY
BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT (BFN)
UNITS 1, 2, AND 3

REVISION TO TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION (TS) BASES (TS-388)
DESCRIPTION OF AND REASON FOR CHANGES

I. DESCRIPTION OF THE CHANGES

TVA revised Bases Section 3.7.A/4.7.A, "Primary Containment," to delete wording regarding maintaining the drywell to suppression chamber differential pressure constant for the duration of the drywell to suppression chamber leak test.

The specific changes are described below.

1. Unit 1 Bases Section 3.7.A, page 3.7/4.7-29.

Delete the words "and held constant" from the end of the second sentence in the last paragraph on the page. The revised sentence will read as follows:

...The drywell pressure will be increased by at least one psi with respect to the suppression chamber pressure.

2. Unit 2 Bases Section 3.7.A, page 3.7/4.7-29.

Delete the words "and held constant" from the end of the second sentence in the last paragraph on the page. The revised sentence will read as follows:

...The drywell pressure will be increased by at least one psi with respect to the suppression chamber pressure.

3. Unit 3 Bases Section 3.7.A, page 3.7/4.7-28.

Delete the words "and held constant" from the end of the second sentence in the last paragraph on the page. The revised sentence will read as follows:

...The drywell pressure will be increased by at least one psi with respect to the suppression chamber pressure.

II. REASON FOR THE CHANGES

TVA revised Bases Section 3.7.A/4.7.A, "Primary Containment," to delete wording regarding maintaining the drywell to suppression chamber differential pressure constant for the duration of the drywell to suppression chamber leak test to allow performance using an acceptable alternative testing methodology. Although the methodology discussed in the bases provides suitable data for verifying that the leakage is within limits, it requires makeup to the drywell during the test to maintain the pressure differential constant. Equivalent results can be achieved by establishing an initial differential pressure and allowing it to decay during the test and ensuring the final differential pressure is greater than one psi. This methodology does not require makeup and would allow the test to be conducted with minimal resources. Eliminating makeup for this test is consistent with the methodology described in NUREG-1433, BWR/4 Standard Technical Specifications.