

50-259



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20565-0001

April 7, 1997

Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, Jr.  
President, TVA Nuclear and  
Chief Nuclear Officer  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
6A Lookout Place  
1101 Market Street  
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

SUBJECT: BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 - STAFF COMMENTS ON  
APPLICATION FOR CONVERSION TO IMPROVED TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS  
(TAC NOS. M96431, M96432, AND M96433) (TS 362)

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

On February 20, 1997, the NRC staff provided comments from its initial review of the September 6, 1996 submittal by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) proposing to amend the operating licenses for the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant (BFN) Units 1, 2, and 3. TVA's submittal proposed to convert the current technical specifications (CTS) to improved technical specifications (ITS) based upon the improved standard technical specification format given in NUREG-1433. In a meeting on February 26, 1997, TVA briefed the staff on actions it was taking to address the staff's comments. A pilot program to upgrade ITS Section 3.8, and then to review the revisions to this section with the staff in a future meeting was agreed upon.

In a meeting on March 20, 1997, TVA presented its revisions to Section 3.8 to the staff. The staff has concluded that this pilot supplement to the conversion application is responsive to the concerns raised in our letter dated February 20, 1997, and discussed during the meeting on February 26, 1997. In particular, the supplement included a clear method of annotating the markup of the CTS, substantially improved justifications for changes from the CTS to the ITS and differences from the standard technical specifications, an effective matrix of CTS changes to ITS, and evidence of an effective verification review of the contents of the supplement.

While there may still be questions regarding the contents of the proposed ITS and issues associated with the translation of the CTS requirements to the NUREG-1433 format, the form of the proposed supplement to the conversion application will substantially improve the efficiency of the staff's review. The staff requests that TVA supplement the other sections of the proposed ITS to the extent that the concerns apply to each section. In addition, we request that TVA inform the staff of the resulting schedule for submittal of the supplemental information and implementation of the ITS for all three units. As noted in the February 20, 1997 letter, the staff also requests that TVA provide information regarding additional changes it believes are desirable for incorporation in the ITS conversion. When TVA has developed its plans for additional upgrades and their schedule, the staff proposes to meet with TVA to discuss these plans.

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Mr. O. Kingsley

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Please call me at (301)415-1470 if you have any questions regarding this topic.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Joseph F. Williams, Project Manager  
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-259, 50-260, and 50-296

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DATE	04/7/97	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	04/11/97	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	04/7/97	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	04/7/97	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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**BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT**

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