

May 20, 2002

Mr. J. A. Scalice
Chief Nuclear Officer and
Executive Vice President
Tennessee Valley Authority
6A Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

SUBJECT: BULLETIN 2002-01, "REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL HEAD DEGRADATION AND REACTOR COOLANT PRESSURE BOUNDARY INTEGRITY," 15-DAY RESPONSE FOR WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 1 (TAC NO. MB4591)

Dear Mr. Scalice:

On March 18, 2002, the staff issued U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Bulletin 2002-01, "Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Degradation and Reactor Coolant Pressure Boundary Integrity," to the industry. The Bulletin requested that addressees provide information related to the structural integrity of the reactor coolant pressure boundary, including the reactor pressure vessel head, and the extent to which inspections have been undertaken to satisfy applicable regulatory requirements. Bulletin 2002-01 also required licensees to provide the basis for concluding that plans for future inspections of the reactor coolant pressure boundary will satisfy applicable regulatory requirements at their respective pressurized water reactor plants. All addressees were requested to respond to Items 1.A. through E. within 15 days of the Bulletin's issuance, or to provide a written response to the NRC in accordance with the provisions of Title 10, *Code of Federal Regulations*, Section 50.54(f) if they were unable to provide the information or could not meet the requested completion dates.

Your letter of April 2, 2002, provided your 15-day Bulletin response to the NRC. The staff finds that you have supplied the requested information, and concludes that your plant does not appear to have conditions similar to those which lead to the degradation at Davis-Besse. However, the staff may issue questions to confirm or verify the information that was provided in your 15-day response to Bulletin 2002-01. We will complete a full review of your response to Bulletin 2002-01 after we review your response to Items 2 and 3 of the Bulletin.

Sincerely,

/RA/

L. Mark Padovan, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-390

cc: See next page

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L. Mark Padovan, Project Manager, Section 2
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Mr. J. A. Scalice
Tennessee Valley Authority

WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT

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