



# NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs Telephone: 301/415-8200

Washington, D.C. 20555-0001 E-mail: [opa@nrc.gov](mailto:opa@nrc.gov)

Web Site: <http://www.nrc.gov>

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## NRC APPROVES POWER UPRATE FOR BROWNS FERRY UNIT 1

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has approved a request by the Tennessee Valley Authority to increase the generating capacity of Browns Ferry Unit 1 by 5 percent.

The NRC staff's review of TVA's application has been part of the agency's intensive oversight of the proposed restart of Unit 1, which has been inactive since March 1985 and was reloaded with nuclear fuel in December 2006. The NRC staff concluded that, as long as all other issues related to restart were satisfactorily resolved, TVA could operate the reactor at a higher power level, primarily by upgrading major plant components such as turbines and transformers. NRC staff also reviewed TVA evaluations that showed the plant's design can handle the increased power level.

Based on Unit 1's current licensing basis, the power uprate will increase the reactor's generating capacity from approximately 1,100 to 1,155 megawatts electric. TVA intends to operate Browns Ferry Unit 1, located 10 miles northwest of Decatur, Ala., at the higher power level once it receives NRC permission to restart and completes its initial startup testing.

NRC previously published a notice about the power uprate application in the *Federal Register*, providing the public an opportunity to comment or request a hearing. No comments or hearing requests were received by the NRC.

The NRC's safety evaluation of the plant's proposed power uprate focused on several areas, including nuclear steam supply systems, instrumentation and control systems, electrical systems, accident evaluations, radiological consequences, operations, and other technical specification changes.

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