

INVESTIGATION STATUS RECC

Facility:	WATTS BAR	Case Agent:	CLAXTON, GARY H
Case Number:	2-1998-023	Date Opened:	11/04/1998
Docket Number(s):	05000390, 05000391	ECD:	
Case Type:	Reactor Power	Priority:	High
Primary Alleg Source:	NRC Inspector / Technical Staff	Status:	Case is Closed
Allegation Number(s):	NRR-1998-A-0011, RII-1998-A-0144		
Subject/Allegation:	ALLEGED FALSIFICATION OF TEST DATA REGARDING ICE CONDENSER SCREWS		

Monthly Status Report:

- 11/04/1998: Extensive inspection effort by regional inspectors has determined that the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) metallurgical reports regarding cracks in ice condenser screws may have been edited to prevent the NRC from learning of a widespread problem with the Westinghouse screws. Initial lab results indicated that overtightening and installation problems resulted in cracking in some screws. However, screws from Watts Bar stores were also examined and determined to have cracks also. The testing of the stores (unused) screws was deleted in a second lab report sent to Westinghouse. Status: FWP ECD (90-day): 02/1999
- 11/30/1998: New case. No investigation conducted. Status: FWP ECD: 02/1999
- 12/31/1998: A TVA memo dated September 3, 1998, was reviewed which offered an explanation for the differences between two reports issued by the TVA central lab services. This memo will be discussed with RII staff to determine the significance and relevance of the explanation. No other investigation has been conducted in view of work on other high priority cases. Status: FWP ECD: 02/1999
- 01/31/1999: No investigation has been conducted on this matter in view of extensive travel and review of documents in Case No. 2-1998-020. Due to the continued requirements on 2-1998-020, this ECD is being extended to 06/1999. Status: FWP ECD: 06/1999
- 02/28/1999: The allegor in this matter, Curtis OVERALL was interviewed on 2/11/99. Information was obtained regarding persons who were responsible or involved with the lab report which was withdrawn from circulation and replaced with another report. The first report contained information concerning possibly defective unused ice basket screws that were taken from the warehouse at Watts Bar. Interviews are being arranged to determine why the new screws were not analyzed for Appendix B applicability since the TVA metallurgical lab identified certain defects in both the new and used screws. Contact with the TVA attorney has determined that the interviews apparently cannot be scheduled until the last week of March. Vendor Branch personnel at NRC HQ will be contacted regarding procurement information as to the ice basket screws at Watts Bar. During OVERALL's interview, he stated that [REDACTED] told the ALJ judge that he [REDACTED]. According to OVERALL [REDACTED] testified untruthfully because, according to the allegor [REDACTED] was present at the meeting. A review of the ALJ transcript does not support the allegor's claim that [REDACTED] was untruthful. According to the transcript [REDACTED]. Status: FWP ECD: 06/1999
- 03/31/1999: Seven interviews were conducted of TVA personnel in an effort to determine who was responsible for altering a metallurgical lab report. The report contained a reference to ice basket screws that possibly had manufacturing defects. The report was re-issued with no reference to the new screws which had the manufacturing defects. Interviews of pertinent Westinghouse employees will be conducted to determine why they did not reference information they received in the earlier report which mentioned the possible manufacturing defects. Status: FWP ECD: 06/1999
- 04/30/1999: Interviews of 10 witnesses were postponed due to scheduling conflicts on the part of the TVA attorney who was representing TVA employees in another OI matter. The issue of whether Westinghouse engineers had a duty to report the possibly defective screws was discussed with Regional Counsel. If Westinghouse had a duty to take action but failed to do so, additional investigation will be required outside of Region II. In view of the delay of interviews and possible additional investigation, the ECD is extended. Status: FWP ECD: 09/1999

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INVESTIGATION STATUS REC D

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05/31/1999: OI interviewed seven licensee employees who attended a meeting at WBN on 6/14/95. The purpose of the interview was to determine whether any of the attendees recalled the nature of the meeting which allegedly was [REDACTED]. The alger in this matter stated [REDACTED] was trying to downplay the importance of the broken ice basket screws and the resulting metallurgical lab report. None of the seven interviewees recalled any details of the meeting and some did not recall the meeting at all. TVA provided QA procedures for dispositioning metallurgical lab reports and it was apparent that [REDACTED] did not properly remove the lab report of 6/2/95 from the permanent TVA repository before [REDACTED]. OI will next schedule interviews with [REDACTED]. OI will attempt to establish why [REDACTED] took no action regarding the information in the 6/2/95 report that referenced manufacturing defects in ice basket screws. Status: FWP ECD: 09/1999

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06/30/1999: RII Regional Counsel Carolyn F. EVANS and RII Director of Enforcement Anne T. BOLAND, were briefed on the status of this investigation. EVANS opined that [REDACTED]. It is anticipated that SCRABIS will be interviewed during the month of July to determine the basis of his actions when he received the report from OVERALL. Status: FWP ECD: 09/1999

5

07/31/1999: No field investigation was conducted in this matter due to personal leave and completion of report writing for Case No. 2-1998-019. Allegations regarding the TVA Central Lab Services (CLS) have been received that may relate to aspects of this case. Allegation NRR-1999-A-0047 concerns the failure to follow QA procedures and possible falsification of reports. OI:RII will participate in an assist to inspection from August 16-20 at TVA CLS to review QA procedures and attempt to determine any relation between Allegation NRR-1999-A-0047 and this investigation. An attempt will also be made to schedule the interviews of SCRABIS and KATCHEM to determine what role they played in evaluating the ice basket screw issue as reported by OVERALL. Status: FWP ECD: 09/1999

08/31/1999: A planned interview of SCRABIS was not conducted during the month of July due to his being on vacation, the unavailability of his attorney, and an extended assist to inspection by OI on an unrelated matter (2-1999-019). SCRABIS tentatively was scheduled for an interview on or about 9/1/99 pending agreement with his attorney. However, as of 8/30, SCRABIS had not recontacted OI to confirm a date. On 8/30, SCRABIS was not in his office and a message was left for him to contact OI. SCRABIS will be interviewed primarily to determine why Westinghouse did not consider a metallurgical report prepared by TVA when Westinghouse was contracted to evaluate the ice basket screws being used by Watts Bar.

KATCHAM is scheduled to be interviewed on 9/2/99. KATCHAM was responsible for closing out the problem evaluation report (PER) which identified the potential manufacturing defects in the ice basket screws. KATCHAM will be interviewed to determine why the metallurgical report was not used by Westinghouse and what communications he had with various managers (i.e. Jim ADAIR) regarding disposition of the PER. A discussion of this matter with NRC IG Special Agent [REDACTED] revealed that [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] in 1998 that he [REDACTED] was not aware of a metallurgical report dated 6/2/95, but was provided a copy of a revised laboratory report dated 6/19/95. In 1999, ADAIR told NRC OI that he was aware of the 6/2/95 report but never saw the revised report dated 6/19/95. It is anticipated that ADAIR will be reinterviewed to resolve the contradictory testimony. Status: FWP ECD: 09/1999

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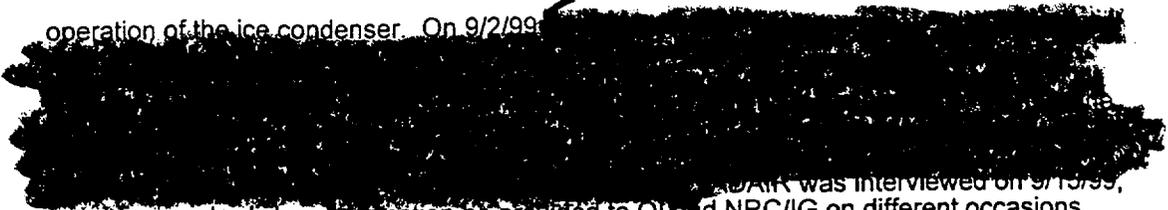
09/30/1999: Chuck SCRABIS, Westinghouse Electric Company (WEC), was interviewed on 9/27/99, regarding the role WEC played in the closure of WBN Corrective Action Report (CAR) concerning defective ice condenser basket screws. SCRABIS said WEC received a portion of the WBN metallurgical report, but decided, in agreement with WBN engineers, to evaluate the screws on a statistical basis rather than a chemical basis. That is, WEC determined the probable maximum number of missing screws that would allow the ice baskets to remain operable. SCRABIS said the evaluation showed the WBN ice condenser baskets to be well within acceptable limits. SCRABIS added that WEC is under no obligation to follow WBN's corrective action. SCRABIS said that during a teleconference, WBN management agreed to WEC's approach of determining how many missing screws would be acceptable for safe

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operation of the ice condenser. On 9/2/99



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ADAIR was interviewed on 9/15/99, regarding contradictory information he provided to OI and NRC/IG on different occasions. ADAIR said he must have misspoke or that the NRC/IG investigator misunderstood him. At this time no further investigation will be conducted. The evidence will be evaluated in an effort to determine whether there was any deliberate misconduct on the part of any TVA employees and a report issued. Status: RID ECD: 10/1999

10/31/1999: Field work is complete and report of investigation is in FOD review. The investigation concluded that Jim ADAIR, the lead civil engineer at WBN, willfully failed to provide complete and accurate information. ADAIR willfully took actions to conceal the existence of defective new screws at WBN. It was also concluded that [redacted] failed to provide complete and accurate information by willfully concealing the existence of defective new screws. [redacted] also failed to provide complete and accurate information. [redacted] issued a report, relied upon by the NRC, that covered up [redacted] attempts to conceal the existence of the defective new screws. Status: ROI-II ECD: 11/1999

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11/19/1999: Closed/Issued/DOJ Declined 10/26/1999

Completion Date:	11/19/1999	Total Staff Hours:	1,336.0
Issue Date:	11/19/1999	Months Open:	13.0
DOJ Action(s):	Declination - 10/26/1999	OE Action:	
OI Violation(s):	False Statement - Substantiated, False Statement - No Result	DOJ Referral Date:	10/26/1999

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