

January 14, 1997

Mr. Curtis C. Overall
3533 Ozark Ave.
Cleveland, TN 37312

SUBJECT: ALLEGATION REPORT RII-96-A-0249

Dear Mr. Overall:

This letter refers to concerns you expressed to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on December 16, 1996. Your concerns dealt with licensee's maintenance of the Watts Bar Unit 1 ice condenser.

Enclosure 1 to this letter documents your concerns as we understand them. We have initiated actions to develop and examine the facts and circumstances of your concerns. Therefore, if we have misunderstood or mischaracterized your concerns as described in the enclosure, please contact me so that we can assure that they are adequately addressed prior to the completion of our review. Once we complete our review, we will inform you of the results.

Enclosure 2 covers the NRC policy on identity protection of individuals who express concerns to the NRC. Enclosure 3 contains NRC Form 3, Notice to Employees, for your information and review. The intent of this information is to let you be aware of your rights if you believe that TVA discriminated against you for bringing safety concerns to either your former employer or the NRC prior to your lay off. As indicated in NRC Form 3, your complaint must describe the discrimination and must be filed with the U.S. Department of Labor within 180 days of the occurrence.

If a request is filed under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) related to your areas of concern, the information provided will, to the extent consistent with that act, be purged of names and other potential identifiers. Further, you should be aware that you are not considered a confidential source unless confidentiality has been granted in writing.

Thank you for notifying us of your concerns. Should you have further questions regarding this matter, please contact me by calling 1-800-577-8510 or respond in writing. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 845, Atlanta, GA 30301.

Sincerely,

Al Ignatonis,
Senior Allegations Coordinator
Enforcement and Investigation
Coordination Staff

Enclosures: 1. Statement of Concerns
2. Identity Protection
3. NRC Form 3

Certified Mail Number: P 058 054 062
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

**THIS DOCUMENT IDENTIFIES
AN ALLEGER**

1/31/97
Check w/
Linda Slack.
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to copy.

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ENCLOSURE 1

R11-96-A-0249

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

WATTS BAR UNIT 1 NUCLEAR PLANT

STATEMENT OF CONCERNS

1. Concerned Individual (CI) stated he was recently layed off because the system engineer function he was performing on the ice condenser did not require a full time position. He stated that the system did require full time attention due to the many challenges the system presents based on his many years of experience with it. He is concerned the system may degrade and not receive sufficient attention. The currently assigned person (reserved) has two other systems also.
2. CI expressed concern about broken screws which were found in the ice condenser in 1995. A PER was initiated to perform an evaluation. TVA initially performed a metallurgical analysis. Subsequent to that report, the issue was given to Westinghouse to analyze. The issue was very quickly analyzed away and the first report was not used to support the analysis. He is concerned whether the analysis was adequate. The CI called Duke Power to ask if they had experienced a similar problem. They stated that they find broken screws regularly during outages and replace them with stainless steel screws. They implied to him that they had performed an informal internal analysis of the issue and did not involve Westinghouse nor did they highlight the issue as an industry problem.

ENCLOSURE 2

IDENTITY PROTECTION

This is important information concerning Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) procedures for protection of the personal identity of individuals providing information and/or concerns to the NRC.

All reasonable efforts will be made by the NRC not to disclose the identity of an alleged outside the agency. Only NRC staff who have a need to know will be provided an alleged's identity. This would happen, for example, when an inspector or investigator is assigned to interview an alleged. Documents that contain the alleged's identity will be stored in a locked cabinet within controlled access and will not be placed in NRC public document rooms. However, the NRC may reveal your identity as an alleged outside the agency under the following circumstances:

- 1) You clearly state that you have no objection to being identified;
- 2) Disclosure is necessary to protect the public because of an overriding safety issue identified in your allegation;
- 3) Disclosure is necessary to satisfy a request from Congress or State or Federal agencies;
- 4) In response to a court order or NRC Licensing Board order;
- 5) You take an action that is inconsistent with protecting your identity such as notifying the news media;
or
- 6) To pursue a wrongdoing investigation or support a hearing on an NRC enforcement action.

Furthermore, if the NRC was investigating a claim that you were a victim of discrimination because you raised a safety concern, it would be extremely difficult to investigate the allegation without identifying you. Therefore, the NRC will disclose your name when investigating claims of discrimination.

Individuals should be aware, however, that licensees can and do sometimes correctly guess the identity of individuals who provide information to the NRC because of the nature of the information or other factors beyond our control. In such cases, our policy is to neither confirm nor deny the accuracy of their guesses.

The NRC will not consider an individual as a confidential source unless confidentiality has been formally granted in writing.

ENCLOSURE 3