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Tennessee Valley Authority  
ATTN: Mr. H. G. Parris  
Manager of Power  
500A Chestnut Street Tower II  
Chattanooga, TN 37401

Gentlemen:

Subject: IE Report No. 50-390/81-14 and 50-391/81-14

Our inspection, conducted during the period June 21 - July 20, 1981, of NRC licensed activities at your Watts Bar facility indicated that the damage to a charging pump during flushing operations was the result of inadequacies in the implementation of your quality assurance program for preoperational testing. While the damage to the charging pump, in itself, is not of significant safety concern, the several failures in your quality assurance program which permitted the event to occur are of concern to us. This concern is amplified by earlier events at Watts Bar which also indicate inadequacies in your quality assurance program and its implementation. Examples of these earlier events are the problems with the Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning system, the Emergency Raw Cooling Water System, and the Diesel Generator Building design.

On August 19, 1981, I, and members of my staff conducted an enforcement conference with your representatives at the Regional Office in Atlanta, Georgia to discuss our concerns about the overall quality assurance program at Watts Bar.

The violations described in the enclosed Notice of Violation have been categorized at the levels described in the Interim Enforcement Policy published in the Federal Register, 45 FR 66754 (October 7, 1980). In accordance with that policy, this office considered proposing escalated enforcement action for the inadequacies in your quality assurance program. However, based on our discussions during the August 19, 1981, meeting and the commitments made by Mr. L. M. Mills of your staff in his telephone conversation with Mr. C. E. Alderson of this office on November 3, 1981, we have concluded that such action is not warranted at this time.

You are required to respond to the Notice of Violation. In preparing your response you should follow the instructions specified therein. In addition to your response to the specific violations, please confirm our

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understanding, based on the referenced conversation, that you have taken or will take the following actions to improve your quality assurance program:

1. The Nuclear Safety Review Staff has performed or will perform a comprehensive review of the activities of both the Division of Construction and the Division of Engineering Design, and interfaces between the various line organizations and quality assurance groups to determine the underlying causes for deficiencies in the quality assurance program for Watts Bar and other nuclear facilities as appropriate. The review has or will specifically address the following areas:
  - a. Adequacy of management systems and controls for assuring safety related activities are properly accomplished and that TVA commitments, including design requirements, are met.
  - b. Adequacy of employee qualification and training, including training on the purpose and needs for adherence to procedures and for effective quality control inspections at both the Office of Engineering Design and Construction and at the sites.
  - c. Adequacy of control systems on sites for system and component preoperational testing.
  - d. Adequacy of control systems on sites for system and component cleanliness.
  - e. Adequacy of systems for identifying problems, including the adequacy of acceptance criteria used in quality assurance audits and quality control inspections, and for assuring both adequate and timely corrective actions at both the Office of Engineering Design and Construction and at the sites.
2. Following completion of this review, TVA will provide Region II with the findings from the review, including corrective actions planned. It is expected that TVA will request a meeting in Region II, to take place on or before December 15, 1981, to discuss the findings and corrective actions.

Your response and the results of future inspections will be evaluated to determine whether additional enforcement action is necessary.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790, a copy of this letter and the enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room. If the enclosure contains any information that you believe to be exempt from disclosure under 10 CFR 9.5(a)(4), it is requested that you notify this office promptly.

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The responses directed by this Notice are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, PL 96-511.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, we will be happy to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

James P. O'Reilly  
Director

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation
2. IE Report Nos. 50-390/81-14,  
50-391/81-14

- cc: H. J. Green, Director of Nuclear Power  
C. C. Mason, Acting Plant Superintendent  
Joseph E. Wilkins, Project Manager  
J. F. Cox, Supervisor, Nuclear Licensing Section  
D. P. Ormsby, Project Engineer  
H. N. Culver, Chief, Nuclear Safety Review Staff

bcc: Resident Inspector  
Document Management Branch  
State of Tennessee

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