

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE 37902

NOV 02 1988

Mr. Philip L. Stewart, Manager  
Chattanooga Field Office  
Division of Water Pollution Control  
2501 Milne Avenue  
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37406-3399

Dear Mr. Stewart:

WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT (WBN) - NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT NO. TN0020168 - RECONSIDERATION OF pH STUDY

In reference to your December 16, 1987 letter on this subject, WBN staff would prefer that you include monitoring requirements in the NPDES permit for discharge serial numbers (DSN) 105 and 109 rather than conduct the requested pH study. As stated in previous correspondence, our internal procedures already require that the pH of these tanks be adjusted to the 6.0-9.0 range before release. Therefore, incorporating monitoring requirements into the NPDES permit will require no monitoring or treatment beyond what we currently conduct.

The reason for retaining separate permit discharges for DSNs 105 and 109 is that under certain operating conditions, e.g., steam generator tube leaks or high levels in the turbine building sump, the waste stream is allowed to bypass the turbine building. In this event, the waste stream must be monitored for potential radiation and discharged to either the diffuser discharge if it is within the acceptable radiation limits, or to the radwaste system for treatment. This capability to discharge directly through the DSN 105 and 109 pathways is provided in the WBN Technical Specifications. Operational changes to the WBN Technical Specifications require NRC review and approval.

If you have any questions concerning these matters, please contact Abraham H. Loudermilk, Jr., at (615) 632-6656 in Knoxville.

Sincerely,

  
M. Paul Schmierbach, Manager  
Environmental Quality

cc: Mr. K. P. Barr, Acting Assistant Director  
for Inspection Programs  
TVA Projects Division  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region II  
101 Marietta Street, NW., Suite 2900  
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

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Mr. Philip L. Stewart

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Mr. Bruce R. Barrett, Director  
Water Management Division  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,  
Region IV  
345 Courtland Street, NE.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30365

Ms. S. C. Black, Assistant Director  
for Projects  
TVA Projects Division  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
One White Flint, North  
11555 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Mr. F. R. McCoy, Assistant director  
for Inspection Programs  
TVA Projects Division  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region II  
101 Marietta Street, NW., Suite 2900  
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Attention: Document Control Desk  
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