

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE
37902

TVA
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ANNIVERSARY
OF PEOPLE IN
PARTNERSHIP

March 28, 1974

Mr. L. Manning Muntzing
Director of Regulation
U.S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545

Dear Mr. Muntzing:

We in TVA agree thoroughly with the view expressed in your letter of March 12 that open reporting of nuclear plant operations is necessary to give the public accurate information, and to avoid misinterpretations of operating problems.

At the time your letter arrived, enclosing your guidance list to AEC Regional Directors on events that would require announcements, TVA was completing a similar set of guidelines for our own nuclear plants. The guidelines we have adopted appear to be essentially the same as the AEC list, although we have tried to define the various categories of events in the terms that will be clearest to our nuclear plant operating staffs. The first nuclear unit on the TVA system is still in the functional testing stage, so we recognize that we may find areas needing further definition or clarification as we gain experience with announcements of this type.

Actually we will be reporting more routine information than is included here. In an effort to give news media a better overall understanding of our power system operations, we are developing a format for a weekly operating report. This will include information about the availability of various large nuclear and coal-fired units on our system and the factors involved. We believe this will help put nuclear plant operations into perspective by making it clear that some interruptions in operation are normal for any steam-electric generating unit.

Very truly yours,

Lynn Seeber

Lynn Seeber
General Manager

Enclosure

U.S. AT. EN. COM. Div. of Reg.
Date 4/15/74
Time 1:40

MISC
2780

TVA GUIDELINES FOR NEWS ANNOUNCEMENTS ON NUCLEAR PLANT INCIDENTS

In the operation of nuclear plants, TVA has a policy of informing news media promptly of any unusual events considered to have potential significance to safety.

In addition other events that might be of concern to the public will be reported, even though in some cases their actual significance may be minor.

These guidelines identify events for which TVA will make news announcements. The Division of Power Production will provide information as soon as possible to the Information Office, which will prepare a news announcement, coordinating when appropriate with the Division of Environmental Planning. A news announcement will be issued whenever one of the following incidents occurs:

1. Nonscheduled unit shutdowns lasting (or expected to last) more than seven days, regardless of cause.
2. Shutdowns (exceeding one day) resulting from failure of or damage to safety-related equipment.
3. Failure of or damage to safety-related equipment, if the time for repair is likely to exceed that allowed by the technical specifications. An announcement is to be issued as early as possible.
4. Any discharge of radioactive materials exceeding AEC limits.
5. Any radiation exposure of plant personnel exceeding, or expected to exceed, AEC limits.
6. Any severe personal injury or fatality, whether related to nuclear operations or not.
7. Any accident involving a carrier transporting spent fuel or radioactive waste materials from a TVA nuclear plant. Announcement to be coordinated with state radiological hygiene agency as necessary.
8. Reporting effect--or no effect--from flood, earthquake, tornado, or other natural event in the plant vicinity that could have an impact on the plant.
9. Any incident such as fire or explosion causing major damage at the plant.
10. Any abnormal event involving environmental concern, such as a significant chemical release.
11. Any significant curtailment of operations required to meet an environmental regulation.

Requests by news media for additional information on these announcements should be directed to the Information Office, unless the question is one that can be readily answered with a simple, factual response.

The Information Office will determine the distribution of news announcements, based on the nature of the event and urgency of the announcement.