

ENCLOSURE

WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT UNITS 1 AND 2  
PILES SUPPORTING ERCW PIPE SLAB NOT DRIVEN TO DESIGN REQUIREMENT  
NCR CDB 79-3  
FIRST INTERIM REPORT (10 CFR 50.55(e))

Description of Deficiency

During a normal review of the as-constructed configuration of the ERCW piping between the intake pumping station and the plant, it was discovered that construction employees failed to follow procedures for driving piles to support the Essential Raw Cooling Water (ERCW) piping adjacent to the intake pumping station. The design drawing states that no less than a 30,000 foot-pound hammer be used to drive these piles; however, a 15,000 foot-pound hammer was actually used.

Other pile-supported safety-related systems at Watts Bar Nuclear Plant have been investigated to ensure that similar deficiencies do not exist on those systems.

TVA considers this deficiency reportable under 10 CFR 50.55(e) because the ERCW piping may not be properly supported to ensure continued operation under all conditions. The ERCW system is required for safe operation of the plant.

Safety Implications

If this condition had remained uncorrected, it is possible that at some time during plant life settlement of the ERCW pipe slab might have led to failure of the ERCW piping adjacent to the intake pumping station. Such a postulated failure could have jeopardized the ability of the plant to attain a safe shutdown.

Corrective Actions

Investigations are in progress to determine the settlement experienced in the ERCW pipe slab since it was installed. Also, soils beneath the ERCW pipe slab are being examined to determine the potential for additional settlement of that pipe slab. This information will be utilized in determination of action to be taken to correct this deficiency. Details of TVA's corrective actions will be addressed in a subsequent report on this deficiency.