

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37401

400 Chestnut Street Tower II

January 19, 1981

WBRD-50-390/81-06

Mr. James P. O'Reilly, Director
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region II - Suite 3100
101 Marietta Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. O'Reilly:

WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT UNIT 1 - CURRENT CONTROL PROBLEMS WITH DIESEL
GENERATORS 1A-A AND 1B-B - WBRD-50-390/81-06 - FIRST INTERIM REPORT

The subject deficiency was initially reported to NRC-OIE Inspector
F. Cantrell on December 19, 1980, in accordance with 10 CFR 50.55(e) as
NCR W-24-P. Enclosed is our first interim report. We expect to provide
additional information by February 24, 1981.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with D. L. Lambert at
FIS 857-2581.

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

L. M. Mills, Manager
Nuclear Regulation and Safety

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Victor Stello, Director (Enclosure) ✓
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

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ENCLOSURE
WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT UNIT 1
CURRENT CONTROL PROBLEMS WITH DIESEL GENERATORS 1A-A AND 1B-B
WBRD-50-390/81-06
10 CFR 50.55(e)
FIRST INTERIM REPORT

Description of Deficiency

During preoperational testing at Watts Bar unit 1, diesel generator 1A-A tripped four times by operation of the 50X relay. This relay is designed to trip the diesel generator on instantaneous overcurrent. The relay was actuated by generator current oscillations that indicate an instability under load. These oscillations were produced by the incorrect wiring of a voltage regulator. Diesel generator 1B-B also encountered problems during testing associated with current control. This problem is believed to be associated with the field exciter, but that has not been determined for certain.

Corrective Action

The improper wiring of the voltage regulator on diesel generator 1A-A has been corrected and the preop testing is complete. TVA is continuing to investigate the causes of the problems associated with current control of diesel generator 1B-B.