TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37401
400 Chestnut Street Tower II

NRC REGION II
ATLANTA, GEORGIA
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May 19, 1982

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region II
Attn: Mr. James P. O'Reilly, Regional Administrator
101 Marietta Street, Suite 3100
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. O'Reilly:

WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT UNITS 1 AND 2 - STEAM GENERATOR WATER LEVEL REFERENCE COLUMN ERROR - NCR MEB 79-33 - EIGHTH INTERIM REPORT

The subject deficiency was initially reported to NRC-OIE Inspector M. Thomas on July 6, 1979, in accordance with 10 CFR 50.55(e). Interim reports were submitted on July 30, 1979, June 20, August 22, and November 3, 1980, and January 15 and May 20, 1981. We expect to provide additional information by July 8, 1982.

TVA is reevaluating its decision to install the Westinghouse microprocessor-based temperature compensation system. We have determined that although compensation of the level signal offers operational advantages, it is not required for nuclear safety. The safety functions of the steam generator water level instrumentation can be assured by insulating the reference legs. Therefore, a decision on whether to insulate the reference legs or compensate the level signals will be based on economic considerations. We are presently awaiting revised price quotations from Westinghouse.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with R. H. Shell at FTS 858-2688.

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

for Ralph H. Shell
L. M. Mills, Manager
Nuclear Licensing

cc: Mr. Richard C. DeYoung, Director
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

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