

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37401

400 Chestnut Street Tower II

September 1, 1981

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 UNITS 1 AND 2 - FAILURE OF SAFETY-RELATED
WESTINGHOUSE GATE VALVES - NCR WBN NEB 8013 - FOURTH INTERIM REPORT

The subject condition was initially reported to NRC-OIE Inspector R. W. Wright on October 31, 1980 in accordance with 10 CFR 50.55(e). Interim reports were submitted on December 1, 1980 and March 23 and June 3, 1981. Enclosed is our fourth interim report. We expect to provide our next report by November 18, 1981. TVA considers 10 CFR 21 applicable to this nonconformance.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with D. L. Lambert at FTS 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 UNITS 1 AND 2
FAILURE OF SAFETY-RELATED WESTINGHOUSE GATE VALVES
WBN NEB 8013
10 CFR 50.55(e)
FOURTH INTERIM REPORT

Description of Condition

Westinghouse has informed TVA of problems encountered at two Westinghouse nuclear plants during preoperational testing of 3-inch and 4-inch gate valves manufactured by the Westinghouse Electro-Mechanical Division (EMD). The valves failed to close completely under preoperational test flow conditions which are less severe than the equipment specification design conditions. This problem may affect valves of this type when used in "active" application (i.e., where the mechanical operation of the valve is required to accomplish a safety function). Watts Bar Nuclear Plant has received several of these valves as part of the NSSS contract.

Further investigation by Westinghouse has revealed that this deficiency exists for all Westinghouse EMD gate valves in sizes from 3 to 18 inches.

Interim Progress

In addition to possible corrective action reported earlier, Westinghouse is considering changing the operator, motor, or spring packs and readjusting the torque switches.

Final corrective actions for the subject valves have not been determined. TVA is presently awaiting this information from Westinghouse.