TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37401

400 Chestnut Street Tower II

August 11, 1982

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USNRC REGION II ATLANTA, GEORGIA

WBRD-50-390/82-75
WBRD-50-391/82-71

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 - POSTACCIDENT READINGS FROM CONTAINMENT SUMP LEVEL TRANSMITTERS - WBRD-50-390/82-75, WBRD-50-391/82-71 - FIRST INTERIM REPORT

The subject deficiency was initially reported to NRC-OIE Inspector R. V. Crlenjak on July 8, 1982 in accordance with 10 CFR 50.55(e) as NCR WBN SWP 8236. Enclosed is our first interim report. The submittal date of this report was discussed with Inspector Crlenjak on August 8, 1982. We expect to submit our next report on or about December 22, 1982. We consider 10 CFR Part 21 applicable to this deficiency.

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

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

L. M. Mills

L. M. Mills, Manager
Nuclear Licensing

Enclosure
cc: Mr. Richard C. DeYoung, 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
POSTACCIDENT READINGS FROM CONTAINMENT SUMP LEVEL TRANSMITTERS
NCR WBN SWP 8236
WBRD-50-390/82-75, WBRD-50-391/82-71
10 CFR 50.55(e)
FIRST INTERIM REPORT

Description of Deficiency

Containment sump level transmitters manufactured by ITT-Barton of City of Industry, California, and supplied by Westinghouse of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, are separated from their respective bellows sensors by approximately eighteen (18) feet of water-filled capillary tubing. This level instrumentation is used to provide input for automatic ECCS suction switchover, aid in accident diagnosis, and to help monitor ECCS leaks. Postaccident conditions could cause the water in the capillary tubing to change state from liquid to steam which could damage the bellows sensor. Apparent cause is a deficiency in final design by Westinghouse.

Interim Progress

TVA considers the change of the capillary fill fluid from water to silicon oil to be an acceptable correction for this deficiency based on recommendations from Westinghouse. Accordingly, TVA is reviewing this change for implementation at Watts Bar. Additional information will be provided in our next report.