

**TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY**

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37401

5N 157B Lookout Place

February 20, 1986

WBRD-50-390/86-21

WBRD-50-391/86-17

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Region II

Attention: Dr. J. Nelson Grace, Regional Administrator

101 Marietta Street, NW, Suite 2900

Atlanta, Georgia 30323

Dear Dr. Grace:

WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT UNITS 1 AND 2 - FAILURE TO IDENTIFY A RECURRING PROBLEM BY USE OF A SIGNIFICANT NCR - WBRD-50-390/86-21, WBRD-50-391/86-17 - INTERIM REPORT


The subject deficiency was initially reported to NRC-OIE Inspector Al Ignatonis on January 6, 1986 in accordance with 10 CFR 50.55(e) as audit deficiency WB-S-86-019-D01. Enclosed is our interim report. We expect to submit our next report on or about May 16, 1986.

Delay in submittal of this report was discussed with Bob Carroll on February 5 and 12, 1986.

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

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

  
R. L. Gridley  
Manager of Licensing

Enclosure

cc (Enclosure):

Mr. James Taylor, Director  
Office of Inspection and Enforcement  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

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ENCLOSURE  
WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT UNITS 1 AND 2  
FAILURE TO IDENTIFY A RECURRING PROBLEM BY USE OF A SIGNIFICANT NCR  
WBRD-50-390/86-21, WBRD-50-391/86-17  
AUDIT WB-S-86-019-D01  
10 CFR 50.55(e)  
INTERIM REPORT

Description of Deficiency

During an internal audit performed by TVA's Office of Construction's (OC) Quality Assurance Branch (QAB) on Watts Bar Nuclear Plant OC Quality Manager's Office (QMO), the auditor noted that 27 nonsignificant nonconformance reports (NCRs) had been written in the first nine months of 1985 on acceptable finalized supports which had been changed in some way, thus rendering them unacceptable. However, contrary to guidelines in WBN Quality Control Instruction (QCI) 1.02, R15, "Control of Nonconforming Items," no significant NCR had been generated to identify the repetitions of a particular nonconformance.

Safety Implications

In accordance with the requirements of criterion XVI of 10 CFR 50, Appendix B, the identification of a significant condition adverse to quality (i.e., significant nonconformance) requires a determination of the condition's cause and action to be taken to preclude repetition. Because no significant NCR was generated to identify the repetitive nature of these NCRs, TVA must assume that this practice would go uncorrected which creates the potential for repetitive nonconformances to continue without identification to or attention by management concerning cause and actions to prevent recurrence. Undetected repetitions could lead to conditions which could adversely effect the safe operation of the plant.

Interim Progress

TVA has formed a task force at WBN which is reviewing the overall quality program that controls the rework and accountability program for finalized features. Also, TVA is examining its program for the review of nonsignificant nonconformances for identification of repetitive conditions. Until these reviews are complete, determination of necessary corrective actions cannot be made. TVA will provide additional information in our next report on this item which will be provided to NRC on or about May 16, 1986.