

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37401

400 Chestnut Street Tower II

1979 OCT 19 10:31

October 16, 1979

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

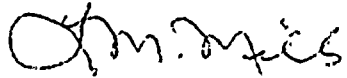
Dear Mr. O'Reilly:

Enclosed is our response to R. C. Lewis' September 25, 1979, letter, RII:DSP 50-259/79-24, 50-260/79-24, and 50-296/79-24, concerning activities at Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant which appeared to be in noncompliance with NRC requirements.

We have reviewed the above inspection report and find no proprietary information in it.

Very truly yours,

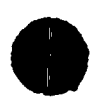
TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY



L. M. Mills, Manager
Nuclear Regulation and Safety

Enclosure

22



ENCLOSURE

RESPONSE TO R. C. LEWIS' LETTER DATED
SEPTEMBER 25, 1979, REFERENCE: RII:DSP
50-259/79-24, 50-260/79-24, 50-296/79-24

INFRACTION

As required by Technical Specification 6.7.2.b.(2), conditions leading to operation in a degraded mode permitted by a limiting condition for operation shall be the subject of a 30-day written report to the director of the Region II office.

Contrary to the above, loss of the torus hydrogen monitor, which led to operating in a degraded mode permitted by Technical Specification 3.7.H.4, occurred during the period April 23-25 and was not reported to the Region II office.

RESPONSE

Explanation

The note included as a part of technical specification 6.7.2.b.(2) states that "Routine surveillance testing, instrument calibration, or preventative maintenance which require system configurations as described in items 2.b.(1) and 2.b.(2) need not be reported except where test results themselves reveal a degraded mode as described above." The calibration performed under trouble report 128082 did not reveal a degraded mode of operation insomuch as the sensor did respond to the calibration gas and gave the correct signal for the applied concentration. Following calibration, the sensor was returned to service.

Corrective Steps Taken and Results Achieved

After the sensor was returned to service, the sensor continued operating with a gradual degradation over the next 12 days, at which time it was declared inoperable and reported to the NRC Region II office. The sensor was replaced on May 14, 1979, during a cold shutdown for other reasons.

51



Corrective Steps Taken to Avoid Further Noncompliance

Any calibrations required as a result of trouble reports will be reported to the NRC Region II office if, as a result of calibration, the plant is placed into a limiting condition for operation.

Date Full Compliance Achieved

The above interpretation of technical specification 6.7.2.b.(2) was established on October 11, 1979, and will continue from that date forward.

