UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
101 MARIETTA STREET, N.W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303

Report Nos. 50-259/79-08, 50-260/79-06, and 50-296/79-08

Licensee: Tennessee Valley Authority
500A Chestnut Street Tower II
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37401

Facility Name: Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant

Docket Nos. DPR-33, DPR-52, and DPR-68

Inspection at Browns Ferry Site near Athens, Alabama

Inspector: D. S. Price for R. F. Sullivan — MAR 26 1979 (Date Signed)

Approved by: H C Dance — 3/26/79 (Date Signed)
H. C. Dance, Section Chief, RONS Branch

SUMMARY

Inspection on February 5 - March 2, 1979

Areas Inspected

This inspection involved 83 resident inspector-hours in the areas of reportable occurrences, review plant operation, on-site review function, fire protection system and plant physical protection.

Results

Of the five areas inspected, no apparent items of noncompliance or deviations were identified.

DETAILS

1. Persons Contacted

Licensee Employees

J. G. Dewease, Plant Superintendent
H. L. Abercrombie, Assistant Plant Superintendent
J. L. Harness, QA Supervisor
J. B. Studdard, Operations Supervisor
R. Hunkapillar, Assistant Operations Supervisor
J. A. Teague, Assistant Maintenance Supervisor, Electrical
M. A. Haney, Assistant Maintenance Supervisor, Mechanical
R. G. Metke, Results Section Supervisor
J. L. Harness, Quality Assurance Supervisor
J. R. Pittman, Instrument Engineer
G. T. Jones, Outage Director
S. G. Bugg, Health Physics Supervisor
W. C. Thomison, Chemical Engineer
A. L. Burnett, Shift Engineer
J. D. Glover, Shift Engineer
D. Thompson, Electrical Engineer
R. Cole, QA Site Representative, Office of Power

Other licensee employees contacted included operators, craftsmen, technicians, public safety officers, QA personnel and engineering personnel.

2. Management Interviews

Management interviews were conducted on February 9, 16, 23 and March 2, 1979 with the Plant Superintendent and selected members of his staff. The inspector summarized the scope and findings of his inspection activities. The licensee was informed that no items of noncompliance or deviations were identified.

3. Licensee Action on Previous Inspection Findings

Not inspected.

4. Unresolved Items

No unresolved items were identified during this inspection.

5. Plant Operations

The inspector kept informed on a daily basis on the overall plant operating status and any significant safety matters related to plant operations. Daily discussions were held with plant management and members of the operations staff. Selected portions of the various daily operating journals and data sheets were reviewed on at least a weekly basis during the report period.

The inspector made plant tours on the following dates: 2/8, 2/16, 2/22, 2/27 and 2/28. Selected areas of the turbine building, reactor buildings and outside areas were visited. The control rooms were visited on a more frequent basis than other areas of the plant. Observations included work activities in progress, valve positions, status of operating and standby safety systems, snubbers, instrument readings and recordings, panel indications, housekeeping and vital areas controls.

The tour of 2/28 was in the company of the plant electrical engineer whose responsibilities include overview of the fire protection alarm and automatic initiation systems. Emphasis was placed on valve line ups and operability of alarms and automatic controls for protection of safety-related equipment.

Informal discussions were held with operators and other personnel on work activities in progress and status of safety-related equipment or systems. The inspector's questions were satisfactorily answered. Shift change was observed in the control rooms on 2/7 and 2/21. On the latter date shutdown of Unit 2 was observed in the control room. On 2/27 startup operations including subcritical rod withdrawal and bringing the reactor critical were witnessed by the inspector. An unannounced visit to observe operations was also made on 2/19 which was a holiday. On all the above occasions, the Technical Specifications staffing requirements were met.

No item of noncompliance or deviations were identified by the inspector.

6. Reportable Occurrences Review

The below listed licensee event reports were reviewed to determine if the information provided met NRC reporting requirements. The determination included adequacy of event description and corrective action taken or planned, existence of potential generic problems and the relative safety significance.

LER No.	Date	Event
259/7837	12/29/78	Check valve in HPCI failed in open position
260/7817	10/25/78	Drywell oxygen concentration greater than 4 percent
260/7822	12/22/78	Refueling floor ventilation monitor inoperative
260/791	2/8/79	HPC I inoperable
260/792	3/1/79	Fire protection panel 25-326 in the control room inoperative
296/791	1/30/79	Reactor water level switch inoperative
296/791	2/6/79	Automatic initiation of one zone in fire protection inoperative

Corrective action taken or implemented on the above events was determined to be adequate. No items of noncompliance or deviations were identified.

7. Plant Operations Review Committee (PORC)

The functions and activities of the PORC, which serves as the onsite review committee, were reviewed for the period September 6, 1978 through February 15, 1979 to determine conformance to Technical Specifications requirements and the Charter described in the Operational Quality Assurance Manual. Meeting minutes confirmed that meetings were conducted with a quorum of qualified members present within the required frequency. Items coming before the Committee included among other things, new procedures, procedure revisions, corrective section reports, Licensee Events Reports, Scram Reports, Work Plans, Proposed Technical Specification changes, License Amendments, nonconforming items, test reports and noncompliance items.

In addition to reviewing the records of PORC the inspector interviewed various members of the Committee on selected topics. All the inspector's question were satisfactorily answered.

8. Plant Dewatering System

Repairs and modifications to the plant dewatering system, which were accomplished during the report period, were followed by the inspector. Simultaneous failure of both dewatering pumps had led to building in-leakage problems as described in a previous inspection report (IE Report 50-259/79-4).

By the end of this report period, "B" well had a new stainless steel liner installed inside the concrete casing and the electric pump had been rebuilt with subsequent satisfactory performance. A new larger - diameter well, also with a stainless steel liner, had been sunk nearby. This well currently has a diesel driven pump installed which test operated satisfactorily. Final determination of the type of pump for this well has not been made. This well has been designated as standby to "B" well. "A" well which had suffered casing damage will be abandoned due to reluctance to attempt clean-out because of its close proximity to "B" well.

A program of test well drilling is under consideration to learn more about the underground water paths and the advisability of sinking additional dewatering wells. Recent experience following a heavy rainstorm has demonstrated that no in-leakage problem developed with the current system.

9. Plant Physical Protection

The inspector observed on a routine basis personnel badging, searching, escort, and vehicle and escort control practices. Vital area controls were also observed. No items of noncompliance or deviations were identified.