

*Official copy*

SEP 11 1992

Docket Nos. 50-259, 50-260, and 50-296  
License Nos. DPR-33, DPR-52, and DPR-68

Tennessee Valley Authority  
ATTN: Dr. Mark O. Medford, Vice President  
Nuclear Assurance, Licensing & Fuels  
3B Lookout Place  
1101 Market Street  
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

Gentlemen:

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF VIOLATION  
(NRC INSPECTION REPORT NOS. 50-259/92-29, 50-260/92-29, AND  
50-296/92-29)

This refers to the inspection conducted by C. A. Patterson of this office on July 18, 1992 - August 14, 1992. The inspection included a review of activities authorized for your Browns Ferry facility. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with those members of your staff identified in the enclosed report.

Areas examined during the inspection are identified in the report. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observation of activities in progress.

Based on the results of this inspection, certain of your activities appeared to be in violation of NRC requirements, as specified in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice). The violation is of concern because of the repetitive errors of modification contractor supervisors concerning hold orders.

The violation described in the enclosed Notice is similar to a non-cited violation contained in our letter dated June 3, 1992. Recurring violations are of particular concern because the NRC expects licensees to learn from their past failures and to take effective corrective actions. Although NRC does not normally consider monetary civil penalties for Severity Level IV violations, the Enforcement Policy states that such penalties may be imposed for Severity Level IV violations that are similar to previous violations for which the licensee did not take effective corrective action. In this case, we have decided not to hold an enforcement conference nor to impose a civil penalty because of your extensive management involvement in development of the corrective actions. In your response to the enclosed Notice, you should document the specific actions taken and any additional actions you plan to prevent recurrence. We will review your response, including your proposed corrective actions, and the results of future inspections to determine whether further NRC enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with NRC regulatory requirements.

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Additionally, an apparent violation was identified and is being reviewed by the NRC staff for appropriate enforcement. The apparent violation involved falsification of plant records. Accordingly no Notice of Violation is presently being issued for the inspection findings. Please be advised that the number and characterization of the apparent violation described in the enclosed inspection report may change as a result of further NRC review. You will be advised by separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations on this matter. No response regarding the apparent violation is required at this time.

You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. In your response, you should document the specific actions taken and any additional actions you plan to prevent recurrence. After reviewing your response to this Notice, including your proposed corrective actions and the results of future inspections, the NRC will determine whether further NRC enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with NRC regulatory requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice", a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

The responses directed by this letter and its enclosures are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, Pub. L. No. 96.511.

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact us.

Sincerely,

(Original signed by J. Johnson)

Ellis W. Merschoff, Director  
Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation
2. NRC Inspection Report

cc w/encls: (See page 3)

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3.

Tennessee Valley Authority

cc w/encls:

Mr. John B. Waters, Director  
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Mr. O. J. Zeringue, Vice President,  
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Claude Earl Fox, M. D.  
State Health Officer  
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bcc w/encls: (See page 4)

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bcc w/encls:

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F. J. Hebdon, NRR

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