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See Reports

SUBJECT: Forwards rev 1 to "Evaluation of Indications on Browns Ferry
 3 Annulus Core Spray Piping & Rev 1 to "Internal Core Spray
 Line Flaw Evaluation Handbook for Browns Ferry..., per IE
 Bulletin 80-13. Repts discussed. Summary of commitments encl.

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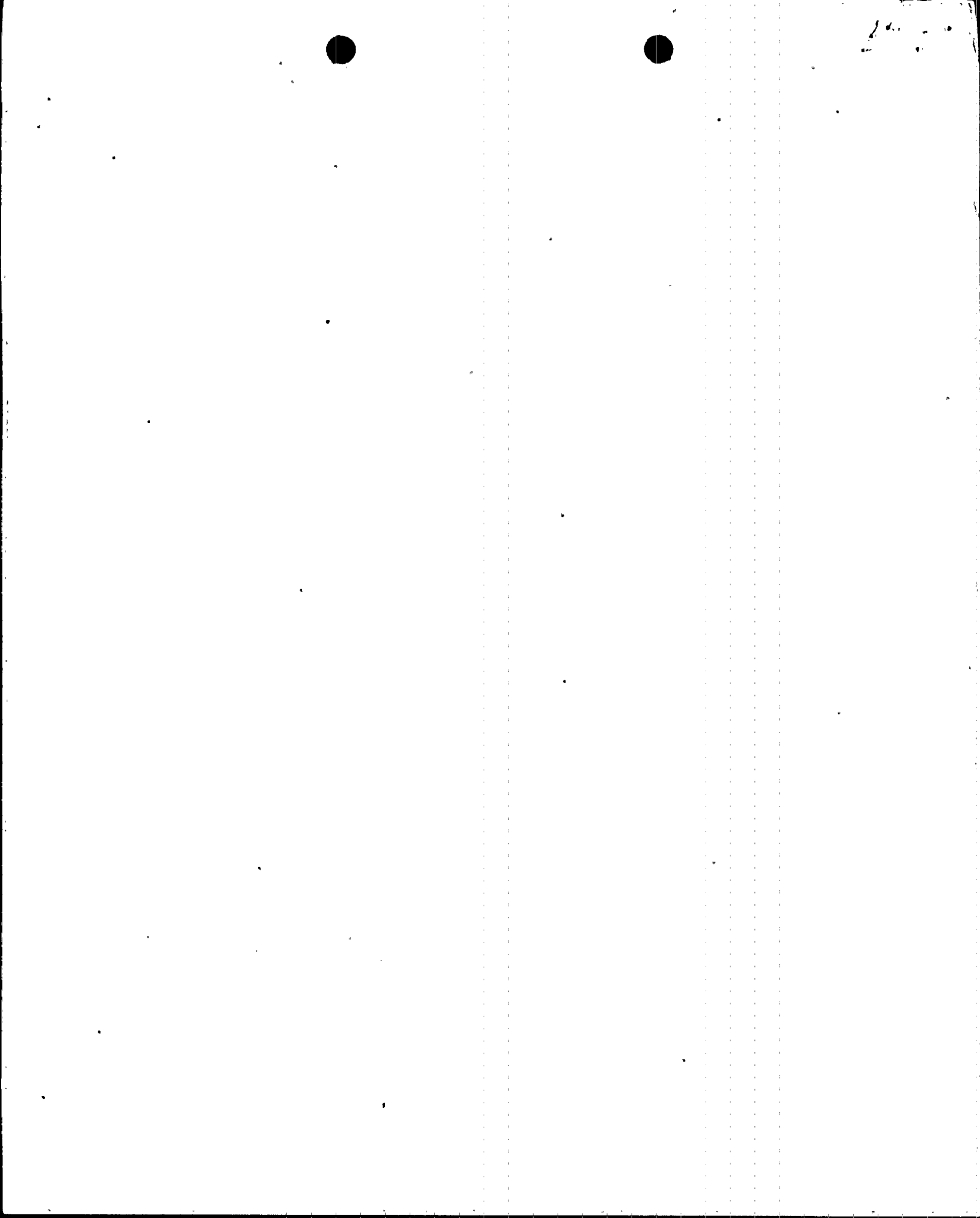
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Tennessee Valley Authority, Post Office Box 2000, Decatur, Alabama 35609-2000

March 7, 1997

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Gentlemen:

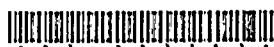
In the Matter of) Docket No. 50-296
Tennessee Valley Authority)

BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT (BFN) - UNIT 3 - REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL INTERNALS, AUGMENTED WELD INSPECTION - EVALUATION OF INDICATIONS AT THE CORE SPRAY SYSTEM PIPING COLLAR-TO-SHROUD WELD

In accordance with IE Bulletin 80-13, "Cracking in Core Spray Spargers," TVA is submitting a structural evaluation of the core spray piping considered indications identified during ultrasonic (UT) examinations of the Core Spray (CS) piping collar-to-shroud welds. The examinations were conducted using the industry guidance contained in the Boiling Water Reactor Vessel and Internals Project (BWRVIP) document, "Core Spray Internals Inspection and Flaw Evaluation Guidelines (BWRVIP-18)," dated July 26, 1996.

The evaluation concluded that the CS system function is not compromised and the indications are acceptable for continued operation during the next fuel cycle without repair. The evaluation was performed considering the flawed weld to be fully cracked, thus not capable of carrying load. In addition, a basis for utilizing the inaccessible weld P9 is provided. The result is that, even with the shroud to collar weld considered disengaged, the core spray piping meets design basis requirements. Based on the conclusions in this report, TVA will submit its plans for reinspection or repair of the Unit 3 CS system piping, internal to the reactor pressure vessel, to NRC at least three months prior to the start of the next refueling outage, currently scheduled to begin in October 1998.

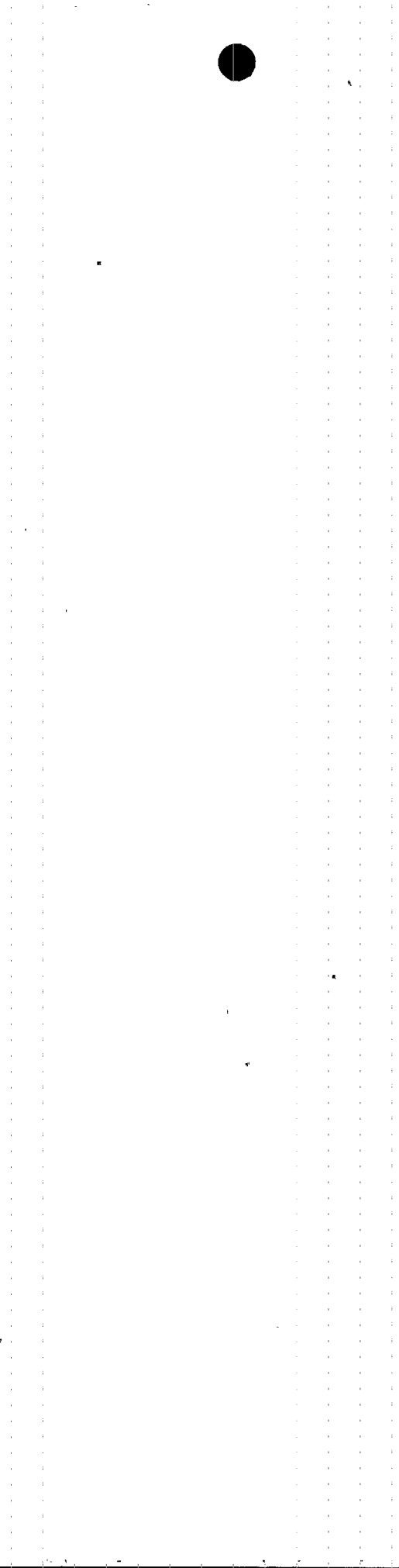
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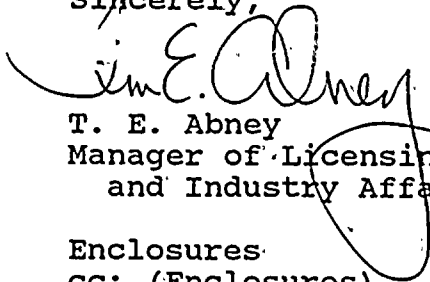
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March 7, 1997

Enclosure 1 to this letter contains TVA's report describing the results of the structural evaluation of the subject weld indications. Enclosure 2 provides a summary of the commitment described in this letter.

If you have any questions regarding this evaluation please call me at (205) 729-2636.

Sincerely,



T. E. Abney
Manager of Licensing
and Industry Affairs

Enclosures

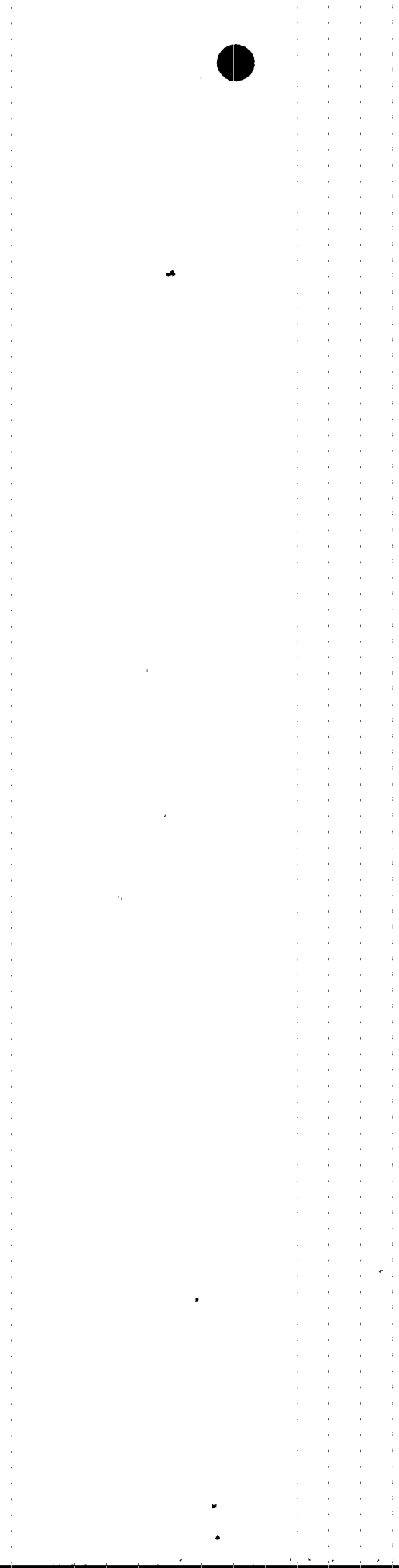
cc: (Enclosures)

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ENCLOSURE 1

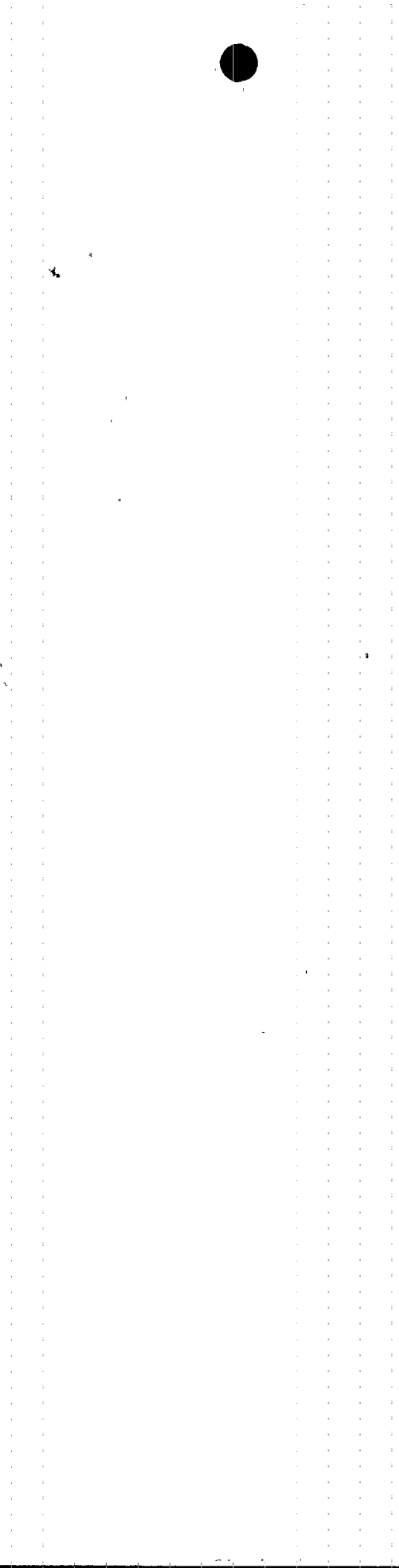
TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY
BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT (BFN)
UNIT 3

CORE SPRAY SYSTEM, AUGMENTED WELD INSPECTION

EVALUATION OF INDICATIONS AT THE COLLAR-TO-SHROUD WELD

(SEE ATTACHED)

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ENCLOSURE 2

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY
BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT (BFN)
UNIT 3

CORE SPRAY SYSTEM, AUGMENTED WELD INSPECTION,
EVALUATION OF INDICATIONS AT THE COLLAR-TO-SHROUD WELD

COMMITMENT SUMMARY

1. TVA will submit its plans to NRC for the reinspection or repair of the BFN Unit 3 Core Spray System piping, internal to the reactor pressure vessel, three months prior to the start of the Cycle 8 refueling outage.

