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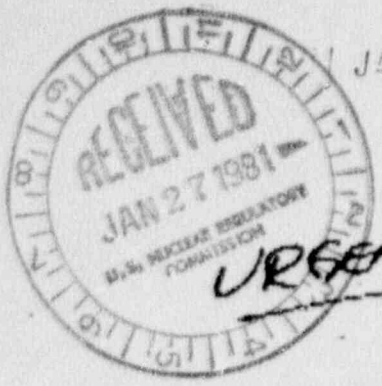
USNRC REGION II
ATLANTA, GA.



JAN 20

TO: Hugh Dance
NRC OIE Reg II
242/5533

FROM: Jerry Wills
TVA
857-2014

URGENT

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37401
500A Chestnut Street Tower II

January 20, 1981

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Director
Deputy Director
Ass't to Director
Admin. Officer
RONS Chief
RCES Chief
FFMS Chief
Sfgds Chief
P A Officer

H. Dance - original
C. Julian - b

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:

OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT BULLETIN 80-17, SUPPLEMENT 4 RII:JPO
50-259, 50-260, 50-296 - BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT

In telephone conversations between J. A. Domer, TVA, and Hugh Dance, NRC, on January 19 and 20, 1981, we discussed the considerable difficulty TVA was experiencing in making operable the Browns Ferry continuous monitoring system (CMS) on the scram discharge volume (SDV). In accordance with NRC IE Bulletin 80-17, Supplement 4, the CMS must be fully operable on all three units by January 21, 1981. The following is a summary of those conversations.

General Electric Company (GE) field representatives have been assisting plant personnel in the installation. Two general problems exist. First, the performance of the system is extremely sensitive to transducer location on the SDV. The second is that the system, as presently designed, suffers from a high noise/low signal gain situation.

During the Browns Ferry unit 3 refueling outage, technicians optimized the transducer location to enhance the system sensitivity. GE further recommended electronic changes to improve the system performance to the extent of being fully operable. We expect to receive the necessary parts from GE by January 30, 1981, and complete the modifications and testing described by the bulletin within three days thereafter.

Following the unit 3 installation, Browns Ferry units 1 and 2 will be modified as unit 3 and the testing repeated. We expect this to take approximately one week. If the testing indicates that further optimization of the transducer location on units 1 and 2 is necessary, this will be done at the next available unit shutdown. It should be emphasized that the location of the transducer on the header is extremely critical. We are concerned that conditions in the header may change and negate operability of the system. Operating experience will determine if this will occur.

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TO: Hugh Dance
242-5533
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Mr. James P. O'Reilly January 20, 1981

The above represents a best faith effort on TVA's part and we will continue to do everything possible to make the Browns Ferry CMS fully operable. If we encounter additional unavoidable delays in the CMS implementation schedule, we will notify your office promptly. Until TVA modifies and tests the system in accordance with Supplement 4, the current 30-minute interval surveillance testing using the portable ultrasonic equipment will be continued.

It is our understanding that our approach as stated above provides an acceptable basis for continued operation. If you have any questions, please call Jim Domer at FTS 857-2014.

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

J. L. Crowe
Executive Assistant to the
Manager of Power

Sworn to and subscribed before me
this 20th day of Jan. 1981

Paulette D. White
Notary Public
My Commission Expires 9-2-84

cc: Mr. Victor Stello, Director
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555