

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37401
400 Chestnut Street Tower II

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March 14, 1980

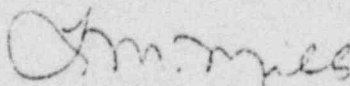
Mr. James P. O'Reilly, Director
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region II - Suite 3100
101 Marietta Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. O'Reilly:

As requested by F. W. Cantrell of your staff on March 7, 1980, enclosed is a revised response to noncompliance item 553/79-17-01, identified in C. E. Murphy's letter dated January 10, 1980, RII:BRC 50-553/79-17, 50-554/79-16. This response supersedes our previous response dated February 1, 1980, for noncompliance item 553/79-17-01. If you have any questions regarding this subject, please call Jim Domer at FTS 854-2014.

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY



L. M. Mills, Manager
Nuclear Regulation and Safety

Enclosure

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

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ENCLOSURE

REVISED RESPONSE TO NRC-OIE LETTER
FROM C. E. MURPHY TO H. G. FARRIS
DATED JANUARY 10, 1980
(REFERENCE: RII:BRC 50-553/79-17, 50-554/79-16)

This report is a revised response to the Notice of Violation described in Appendix A, Item A, of the OIE Inspection Report referenced above. This is provided as requested by Inspector F. W. Cantrell in our telephone conversation with him on March 7, 1980. This report supersedes our previous report dated February 1, 1980, on Infraction 553/79-17-01. Our response to Infraction 553/79-17-02 is unchanged.

Noncompliance Item - Infraction 553/79-17-01

- A. As required by Criterion V of Appendix B to 10CFR50, and as implemented by paragraph 17.1A.5 of the FSAR, "Activities affecting quality shall be prescribed by documented instructions, procedures, and drawings . . . and shall be accomplished in accordance with these instructions, procedures, and drawings." Paragraph 14.9 of process specification 1.M.1.2(b) of General Construction Specification G-29M, applicable to containment shell welding, limits the bead width resulting from weaving to 5/8-inch maximum for the gas metal arc (including flux cored) process.

Contrary to the above, on December 12, 1979, bead widths of 3/4-inch to 7/8-inch on containment shell welds IT 2301629 and IT 2301631, welded with the flux cored process, were observed. Discussions with the inspection personnel revealed that weaving the full width of the joint until the joint is full has been the practice in the past. This results in a bead width of one inch or greater at the top of the joint.

This is an infraction.

REVISED RESPONSE

1. Corrective Steps Taken and Results Achieved

All work on the two containment shell welds cited in the infraction was stopped. A quality control investigation report (QCIR) was written to document and follow this situation. All gas metal arc flux core welding in accordance with General Construction Specification G-29M is now being accomplished with a 5/8-inch maximum weave width.

Disposition of these two welds was predicated on the results of test performed at TVA's Singleton Materials Engineering Laboratories (Singleton) to determine the effect of weave width larger than 5/8 inch.

The results of the initial test at Singleton on which the February 1, 1980, response was based indicated that the properties of the weld and adjacent heat-affected zone met the applicable section of the ASME Code, Subsection KE, with the larger weave width. However, later test results failed to support the original conclusion. As a result of these later test findings, NCR PBN-067 has been deemed "reportable" under 10CFR50.55(e). This condition was reported to Inspector R. W. Wright on March 6, 1980. In NCR PBN-067 R1, TVA has recommended the removal of the weld metal disposed in excess of the 5/8-inch maximum weave width requirement. However, the final decision on corrective actions will be determined by the Technical Engineer, General Electric/C. F. Braun.

2. Action Taken to Prevent Recurrence

Craft supervision and quality control inspectors were instructed on December 17, 1979, to conform to requirements of applicable specifications and codes on all work.

3. Date When Full Compliance Was Achieved

Full compliance on the welds made with excessive weave widths will not be attained until NCR PBN-067 R1 is dispositioned and corrective actions on those welds are accomplished. If C. F. Braun accepts the TVA recommendation, the work is expected to be completed by September 30, 1980.

All gas metal arc flux core welding performed subsequent to December 17, 1979, has been in full compliance with General Construction Specification G-29M.