

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

NORRIS, TENNESSEE 37828

215 Natural Resources Building

JUNE 24 1981

Mr. James R. Patrick, Jr., Deputy Chief
Compliance Branch, Enforcement Division
Environmental Protection Agency, Region IV
345 Courtland Street, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30365

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Dear Mr. Patrick:

NOTIFICATION OF NONCOMPLIANCE WITH EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS - NPDES PERMIT
NO. TN0026450 - SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR PLANT

Description of the discharge--Discharge No. 024 - Diffuser Discharge.
The temperature rise between the upstream and downstream temperature monitors exceeded the maximum permit limitation of 5.4°F, from 3:44 p.m. to 4:44 p.m., CST, on April 14, 1981. The maximum temperature rise during this period was 5.6°F at 4:44 p.m., CST. The maximum downstream temperature during this time was 69.6°F. This violation was inadvertently overlooked until the quarterly Discharge Monitoring Report was being prepared and thus was not reported within the required five-day period.

Cause and period of the noncompliance--The exact cause of this noncompliance is unknown, but we believe that solar heating and low river flows contributed to this noncompliance. Also, the temporary thermal monitoring reporting system only provides the plant operators with the reservoir temperature rise value once every two hours, and the plant operators were not aware of this short violation which occurred for less than two hours. The reservoir temperature rise was 5.3°F at 5:14 p.m., CST, on April 14, 1981 so the period of noncompliance was less than 105 minutes.

Steps taken to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the noncomplying discharge--Since the plant operators were not aware of the reservoir temperature rise violation, no mitigative actions were taken on April 14, 1981. To prevent this problem from recurring, steps have been initiated which will provide the plant operators with all reservoir temperature rise values.

Sincerely,

Mohamed T. El-Ashry, Ph.D.
Assistant Manager of Natural
Resources (Environment)

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Mr. James R. Patrick, Jr.

JUNE 24 1981

cc: Tennessee Department of Public Health
Division of Water Quality Control
621 Cordell Hull Building
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

Mr. Harold E. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
7920 Norfolk Avenue
Washington, DC 20555

Mr. James P. O'Reilly, Director
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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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