

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE 37902

126 Locust Street Building

December 9, 1981



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

Dear Mr. Patrick:

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

Description of the discharge--Discharge Serial No. 019 - Service building sump. A sample collected at 6:30 p.m. on November 30, 1981 contained 340 mg/L of total suspended solids, exceeding the maximum permit limitation of 100 mg/L.

Cause and period of the noncompliance--Under normal low flow conditions solids settle and accumulate below the suction intake for the pumps of this large capacity sump. To preclude a buildup of solids resulting in a release in excess of the permit limitation, this sump is routinely cleaned on a weekly basis. The material removed is disposed of in a lined chemical treatment pond. The workload at the plant during the time of the noncompliance prevented routine sump cleaning. Apparently, the solids accumulated to the point where they were discharged by the sump pump resulting in the noncompliance.

A sample collected at 10:45 a.m. on November 26, 1981 contained a total suspended solids concentration of 52 mg/L. The noncompliance noted on November 30, 1981 ended when the sump was cleaned on December 2, 1981. The period of noncompliance, therefore, was less than six days. A sample collected at 9 a.m. on December 3, 1981 contained 37 mg/L of total suspended solids verifying the end of the noncompliance.

Steps taken to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the noncomplying discharge--The sump was cleaned on December 2, 1981 to end the noncompliance. A Design Change Request is being prepared to modify the sump in such a way as to prevent the accumulation of solids and possible future violations of the NPDES permit limitations (including oil and grease limitations).

Sincerely,

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

cc: See page 2.

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Cool
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Mr. James R. Patrick, Jr.

December 9, 1981

cc: Tennessee Department of Public Health
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621 Cordell Hull Building
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Mr. Jack R. McCormick
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Southeastern Regional Health Office
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