



Tennessee Valley Authority, Post Office Box 2000, Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee 37379

April 8, 1996

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
ATTN: Document Control Desk  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Gentlemen:

In the Matter of )  
Tennessee Valley Authority )

Docket No. 50-327

SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR PLANT (SQN) - UNIT 1 - FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE  
DPR-77 - TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION (TS) 3.3.3.8 - SPECIAL REPORT 96-02

The enclosed special report provides details concerning the inoperability of a fire detector in the fan room on Elevation 714 of the auxiliary building. The fire detector failure has been attributed to moisture-induced oxidation. The fire detector was nonfunctional for a time period greater than allowed by TSs.

This report is being submitted in accordance with TS 3.3.3.8 Action Statement (a).

If you have any questions concerning this submittal, please telephone J. W. Proffitt at (423) 843-6651.

Sincerely,

R. H. Shell  
Site Licensing Manager  
Sequoyah Nuclear Plant

Enclosure  
cc: See page 2

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cc (Enclosure):

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## ENCLOSURE

### SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR PLANT SPECIAL REPORT 96-02

#### Description of Condition

On March 5, 1996, at 1914 Eastern standard time, Fire Zone 136, located in the fan room on Elevation 714 of the auxiliary building, went into an alarm status. The alarm would not clear; therefore, Operations verified that no fire was present. The action for Limiting Conditions for Operation 3.3.3.8 and 3.7.11.2 were entered, and a work request was initiated to correct the problem. Also, a fire watch was established as required by technical specifications (TSs).

#### Cause of Condition

The cause of the detector being inoperable has been attributed to moisture-induced oxidation on the contacts. The moisture is introduced from the air. The oxidation causes a high resistance in the instrument loop, resulting in a trouble alarm being initiated.

#### Corrective Action

In accordance with TS 3.3.3.8 Action Statement (a), a fire watch was immediately established. The fire watch was maintained until the fire detector was returned to operable status. The detectors in Fire Zone 136 were cleaned and returned to service on March 21, 1996.