

July 17, 1985  
EN 85-52

OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT  
NOTIFICATION OF SIGNIFICANT ENFORCEMENT ACTION

Licensee: Tennessee Valley Authority  
Browns Ferry, Units 1, 2, and 3  
Docket Nos. 50-259, 50-260, and 50-296

Subject: PROPOSED IMPOSITION OF CIVIL PENALTY - \$150,000

This is to inform the Commission that a Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalty in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) will be issued on or about July 22, 1985 to Tennessee Valley Authority. This action is based on two violations that were identified as a result of a special safety inspection conducted to review the reactor vessel water level indication anomalies that occurred during a Unit 3 startup. The first violation involves the failure of the licensee to meet Technical Specification requirements for reactor vessel water level instrumentation operability. The operators had sufficient information to indicate that important instrumentation was inoperable, and instead of identifying and fixing the cause of the problem, they continued with the reactor startup. The second violation involves the failure of the licensee to take adequate corrective action when a similar reactor vessel water level instrument problem occurred on November 20, 1984.

It should be noted that the licensee has not been specifically informed of the enforcement action. The Regional Administrator has been authorized by the Director, Office of Inspection and Enforcement, to sign this action. The schedule of issuance and notification is:

Mailing of Notice July 22, 1985  
Telephone Notification of Licensee July 22, 1985

A news release has been prepared and will be issued about the time the licensee receives the Notice. The State of Alabama will be notified.

The licensee has thirty days from the date of the Notice in which to respond. Following NRC evaluation of the response, the civil penalty may be remitted, mitigated, or imposed by Order.

Contact: B. Beach, IE 24766 J. Axelrad, IE 24909

Distribution:

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PRELIMINARY INFORMATION - NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE UNTIL JULY 22, 1985.

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