

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

NUCLEAR SAFETY REVIEW STAFF

NSRS INVESTIGATION REPORT NO. I-86-164-SQN

EMPLOYEE CONCERN: SQP-5-004-003

SUBJECT: RETRIEVAL OF SCRAPPED MATERIAL

DATES OF INVESTIGATION: FEBRUARY 10-25, 1986

INVESTIGATOR: L. E. Brock *for* 3/6/86  
W. R. SIMONDS DATE

REVIEWED BY: J. H. Kincaid 3/6/86  
J. H. KINCAID DATE

APPROVED BY: W. D. Stevens 3/7/86  
W. D. STEVENS DATE

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## I. BACKGROUND

A Nuclear Safety Review Staff (NSRS) investigation was conducted to determine the validity of an expressed employee concern as received by Quality Technology Company (QTC) Employee Response Team (ERT). The concern of record, as summarized on the Employee Concern Assignment Request Form from QTC and identified as SQP-5-004-003, stated:

SEQUOYAH: New material has been ordered scrapped by a supervisor and later retrieved by a different group. This could represent a lack of control regarding scrapped material. Names/details known to QTC and withheld to maintain confidentiality. No further information may be released. Nuclear Power Concern. CI has no further information.

NSRS obtained additional information from the ERT follow-up group which further specified the concern to be that the concerned individual (CI) had noticed brand new fittings still in the manufacturer's plastic bags in a garbage pile next to a warehouse in November 1985. These fittings were picked up by someone from another plant organization the following week. The CI assumes that the fittings were later used somewhere in the plant but is unsure what happened to these fittings after they were picked up/retrieved from the garbage pile.

## II. SCOPE

- A. The scope of this investigation is defined by the concern of record to be a potential lack of control regarding scrapped material.
- B. NSRS reviewed pertinent regulations, regulatory guides, and industry standards to identify requirements applicable to the issue being investigated. TVA commitments, quality assurance procedures, and Sequoyah Nuclear Plant (SQN) instructions were also reviewed to identify specific programmatic controls related to this issue. Material-related documentation was reviewed to obtain information pertaining to the issue. Quality assurance audit and surveillance reports were reviewed to identify any previous findings related to the issue. Interviews were conducted with plant personnel to obtain information specifically pertaining to the alleged occurrence.

## III. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- A. Requirements and Commitments
  1. 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, Criterion XV, "Nonconforming Materials, Parts, or Components"
  2. TVA Topical Report TVA-TR75-1A R8, Paragraph 17.2.15, "Nonconforming Materials, Parts, or Components"

3. TVA Topical Report TVA-TR75-1A R8, Table 17D-3, which commits TVA to use U.S. NRC Regulatory Guide 1.33 (R2), dated February 1978, "Quality Assurance Program Requirements (Operations)," which endorses use of ANSI N18.7-1976

#### B. Findings

1. The investigators determined that the material referred to in the concern of record consists of twelve vibration absorbers (A.K.A. flexible metal hoses) which were manufactured by Packless Industries, Waco, Texas. Upon inspection of these absorbers, it was found that several were sealed in the original plastic bags; and the only identifiable marking was the number P-12 which appeared on the plastic bags and also stamped into one end fitting of each absorber. This number is believed to be the part number. This could not be readily confirmed since there was no other markings which could lead to a purchase document or quality requirements.
2. The investigator further determined that the absorbers described above were scrapped by discarding them into a dumpster containing scrap metal in mid-November 1985. This action was taken by a responsible plant employee because the absorbers were considered to be unusable and because there were no identifiable quality assurance requirements evident on any of the items (Refs. 3b and 3d).
3. Subsequently, other plant personnel retrieved the absorbers from the dumpster because they appeared to be usable and suspected that they possibly were scrapped by mistake. The absorbers were later returned to the organization which had discarded them initially.
4. An effort was made to return the absorbers to Power Stores for credit. However, there was an inconsistency between the presumed absorber part number and the TVA Item Identification Code (TIIC) number which prevented Power Stores from receiving the absorbers for credit (Ref. 3b). The responsible organization then placed the twelve absorbers in an area used by the Electrical Maintenance Group of miscellaneous storage. That is where these items remained as of February 28, 1986 (Ref. 3d).
5. SQA45 (Ref. 3b), paragraph 13.1, states that QA materials left over or recovered in connection with maintenance, operation, or retirement of property shall be returned for credit or scrapped. It is further stated, "QA materials that are left over from maintenance activities, operation, or retirement of property and that have no traceability shall be scrapped or shall be marked or tagged as "NO QA" and may be used on non-CSSC equipment. These non-traceable materials need not be returned to the Power Stores Section."

6. SQA148 (Ref. 3c), paragraph 2.0, states that the SQN plant maintenance organization shall maintain an area at which scrap material will be accumulated. It is further stated, "It is a common place practice to retrieve from scrap metal piles materials which may be needed for use in plant maintenance work."

#### IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

##### A. Conclusion

The employee concern is not substantiated. This conclusion is based upon the finding that nontraceable material, such as the once discarded absorbers, may be retrieved and used in plant maintenance work on non-CSSC equipment.

##### B. Recommendation

None

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED IN INVESTIGATION I-86-164-SQN  
AND REFERENCES

1. TVA Topical Report TVA-TR75-1A R8
2. NUC PR NQAM Procedures
  - a. Part III, Section 2.2, "Receipt Inspection, Handling, and Storage of Materials, Components, and Spare Parts," dated December 23, 1985
  - b. Part III, Section 2.3, "Issuing of Materials, Components, and Spare Parts," dated July 29, 1985
  - c. Part III, Section 7.1, "Nonconforming Materials, Parts, and Components," dated December 23, 1985
3. Sequoyah Instructions
  - a. AI-11, "Receipt Inspection, Nonconforming Items, QA Levels/Description Changes and Substitutions," R32
  - b. SQA-45, "Quality Control of Material and Parts and Services," R18
  - c. SQA148, "Saleable Scrap," R0
  - d. AI-36, "Storage, Handling, and Shipping of QA Material," R8
4. Sequoyah Corrective Action Report Summary Printout dated January 22, 1986
5. Sequoyah Nonconforming Item Log (form TVA 7830A)
6. ANSI N18.7-1976, "Administrative Controls and Quality Assurance for the Operational Phase of Nuclear Power Plants"
7. Division of Quality Assurance Audit Report No. PSQ-A-85-0005, "Procurement/Storage Activities," dated April 25, 1985
8. Division of Quality Assurance Audit Report No. SQ-8400-04, "Sequoyah Nuclear Plant Procurement/Storage Activities," dated March 8, 1984
9. Sequoyah Inplant QA Staff Survey No. 15a-85-P-001, "Nonconforming Items," dated February 19, 1985

cc

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

TO: H. L. Abercrombie, Site Director, Sequoyah Nuclear Plant

FROM: K. W. Whitt, Director of Nuclear Safety Review Staff, E3A8 C-K

DATE: MAR 10 1986

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR SAFETY REVIEW STAFF INVESTIGATION REPORT TRANSMITTAL

Transmitted herein is NSRS Report No. I-86-164-SQN  
 Subject RETRIEVAL OF SCRAPPED MATERIAL  
 Concern No. SNP-5-004-003

No response or corrective action is required for this report. It is being transmitted to you for information purposes only. Should you have any questions, please contact W. D. Stevens at telephone 6231.

Recommend Reportability Determination: Yes        No X

*[Signature]*  
 Director, NSRS/Designee

- WDS:GDM  
 Attachment  
 cc (Attachment):  
 W. C. Bibb, BFN  
 W. T. Cottle, WBN  
 James P. Darling, BLN  
 R. P. Denise, LP6N40A-C  
 G. B. Kirk, SQN  
 D. R. Nichols, E10A14 C-K  
 QTC/ERT, Watts Bar Nuclear Plant  
 Eric Sliger, LP6N48A-C  
 J. H. Sullivan, SQN

WATTS BAR  
 NUCLEAR PLANT  
 SITE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

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