

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37401

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MAR 18 1988

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

Gentlemen:

In the Matter of ) Docket Nos. 50-327  
Tennessee Valley Authority ) 50-328

SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR PLANT (SQN) - NRC BULLETIN NO. 88-01 SCHEDULE UPDATE

- References:
1. NRC Bulletin No. 88-01: "Defects in Westinghouse Circuit Breakers," dated February 5, 1988
  2. TVA letter to NRC dated February 27, 1988, "Sequoyah Nuclear Plant (SQN) - NRC Bulletin Number 88-01: Defects in Westinghouse Circuit Breakers"

This letter is to provide NRC additional information concerning SQN's schedule for completing the inspection requirements on the Westinghouse Electric Corporation (W) breaker types DS-206 and DS-416 used in Class 1E applications as identified in reference 1.

As of March 14, 1988, TVA has performed 15 inspections (both short-term and-long term) on a sample of both DS-206 and DS-416 breakers associated with unit 2 and common equipment. Because all pole shaft welds are visible during the short-term inspections, the long-term inspections are also being conducted at this time as a matter of convenience and to collect data. However, the short-term inspections are of the highest priority in determining pole shaft replacement.

Based upon the bulletin's inspection acceptance criteria (IAC), TVA has determined that 4 of the 15 breakers' pole shafts needed to be replaced. Two of these pole shaft replacements were the result of the breakers not passing the short-term IAC. The other two pole shaft replacements were the result of the breakers not passing the long-term IAC. Since the inspections have begun, TVA has coordinated the inspection effort with W. W is performing an evaluation on six additional breakers in order to determine whether or not the breaker is capable of performing its intended safety function. These evaluations are associated with the weld on the lever for the auxiliary switch drive link, which in accordance with reference 1 carries an extremely light load. These evaluations on the long-term welds are being done on a case-by-case basis. This evaluation process has become necessary because of the lack of the availability of pole shaft replacements.

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Those breakers, whose weld evaluation is found to be acceptable by W, will not have their pole shafts replaced before unit 2 restart. However, as a precautionary measure, TVA will establish a procedure by April 30, 1988, to reinspect those welds that have been found acceptable by W a minimum of every 200 cycles of operation until the pole shafts are repaired or replaced. The repair or replacement of these pole shafts will be completed by the time the breakers involved reach 4,000 cycles of operation as recommended in reference 1.

These inspections are being performed as part of our breaker maintenance program under Special Maintenance Instruction 0-317-78 and in conjunction with Surveillance Instructions (SI) 266.1.2 (unit 1) and SI 266.2.2 (unit 2). As indicated in reference 2, 49 circuit breakers are currently scheduled for surveillance testing. The current projected completion schedule for the 49 Class 1E breakers contained in the two SIs is mid-April 1988. The remaining circuit breakers will be inspected on the schedule identified in reference 2. Any breaker that does not meet the IAC will be evaluated for generic implications in accordance with the established Condition Adverse to Quality Program.

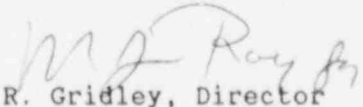
The priority on selecting and testing these breakers is being coordinated with the operations staff to ensure that both plant operational requirements and equipment operability are considered before performing the required inspections. Therefore, the determination in selecting the breakers for performance of the short-term and long-term inspections is based on technical specifications and the plant configuration required to maintain safe operation.

The commitments made in this letter are included in the enclosure.

If there are any questions regarding the information provided in this letter, please telephone Barry A. Kimsey at (615) 870-6847.

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

  
R. Gridley, Director  
Nuclear Licensing and  
Regulatory Affairs

Enclosure

cc: See page 3

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Enclosure

cc (Enclosure):

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ENCLOSURE

SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR PLANT (SQN)

1. TVA will establish a procedure by April 30, 1988, to reinspect those DS-206 and DS-416 breakers whose long-term inspection on the pole shaft welds is approved by Westinghouse. This reinspection will occur a minimum of every 200 cycles of operation until these pole shafts are repaired or replaced. The repair or replacement of these pole shafts will be completed by the time the breakers involved reach 4,000 cycles of operation.