

May 27, 1997

EA 97-232

Tennessee Valley Authority  
ATTN: Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, Jr.  
President, TVA Nuclear and  
Chief Nuclear Officer

6A Lookout Place  
1101 Market Street  
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

SUBJECT: NRC SPECIAL INSPECTION REPORT NOS. 50-327/97-05 AND 50-328/97-05

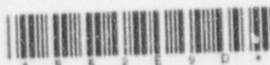
Dear Mr. Kingsley:

This refers to the special inspection conducted on March 24 through May 22, 1997, at the Sequoyah facility. The purpose of the inspection was to review aspects of the Unit 1 inadvertent drain down experienced on March 24, 1997. The enclosed report presents the results of this inspection. The exit meeting for this inspection was conducted on May 22, 1997, with Sequoyah senior management.

Based on the results of this inspection, two apparent violations were identified and are being considered for escalated enforcement action in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions" (Enforcement Policy), NUREG-1600. The corrective actions for a similar 1993 inadvertent reactor coolant system drain down event did not preclude recurrence. The failure to take adequate corrective action is considered to be an apparent violation. The failure of operators to maintain control room oversight, stabilize plant conditions when an instrument failure was suspected, and correctly and accurately log the plant's status, is also considered to be an apparent violation. Accordingly, no Notice of Violation is presently being issued for these inspection findings. In addition, please be advised that the number and characterization of apparent violations described in the enclosed inspection report may change as a result of further NRC review.

A predecisional enforcement conference to discuss these apparent violations will be scheduled. The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has determined that a violation has occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. This conference is being held to obtain information to enable the NRC to make an enforcement decision, such as a common understanding of the facts, root causes, missed opportunities to identify the apparent violations sooner, corrective actions, significance of the issues and the need for lasting and effective corrective action. In particular, we expect you to address the cause for the failures in the corrective action program, the causes for the failure to follow procedure, and the corrective actions planned or implemented to improve these programs. In addition, this is an opportunity for you to point out any errors in our inspection report and for you to provide any information concerning your

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perspectives on 1) the severity of the violations, 2) the application of the factors that the NRC considers when it determines the amount of a civil penalty that may be assessed in accordance with Section VI.B.2 of the Enforcement Policy, and 3) any other application of the Enforcement Policy to this case, including the exercise of discretion in accordance with Section VII.

This conference will be open to public observation in accordance with Section V of the NRC Enforcement Policy. Although not required, we encourage you to provide your comments on how you believe holding this conference open to public observation affected your presentation and your communications with the NRC.

You will be advised by separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations on this matter. No response regarding these apparent violations is required at this time.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

(Original signed by R. V. Crljenjak)

Jon R. Johnson, Director  
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos. 50-327, 50-328  
License Nos. DPR-77, DPR-79

Enclosure: NRC Inspection Report

cc w/encl: (See page 3)

cc w/encl:

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Distribution w/encl: (See page 4)

TVA

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- W. C. Bearden, RII
- C. F. Smith, RII
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- J. H. Moorman, RII
- E. D. Testa, RII
- PUBLIC

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DATE	05 / / 97	05 / / 97	05 / 27 / 97	05 / 22 / 97	05 / 22 / 97	05 / / 97
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NAME	Eckenrode					
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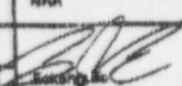
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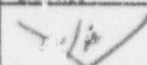
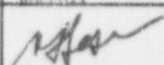
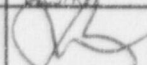
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SIGNATURE	<del>SSpark</del>					
NAME	SSpark	MLesser	MShannon	RStarkley	DSeymour	BUrc
DATE	<Date>	<Date>	<Date>	<Date>	<Date>	<Date>
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OFFICE	NRR					
SIGNATURE						
NAME	F. J. Hebdon					
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DATE	05 / / 97	05 / 22 / 97	05 / / 97	05 / / 97	05 / / 97	05 / / 97
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SIGNATURE						
NAME	Eckenrode					
DATE	05 / / 97	05 / / 97	05 / / 97	05 / / 97	05 / / 97	05 / / 97
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