

Docket



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555
MAY 9 1988

Docket Nos. 50-327, 50-328
License Nos. DPR-77, DPR-79
EA-88-133

Tennessee Valley Authority
ATTN: Mr. S. A. White
Manager of Nuclear Power
6N 38A Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

Gentlemen:

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NOS. 50-327, 328/87-30 and 50-327, 328/87-60

This refers to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) inspections conducted by Mr. K. Jenison at the Sequoyah facility on May 6 - June 12, 1987, and September 6 - October 5, 1987. The inspections included a review of the circumstances surrounding a modification made in 1984 in which the Unit 1 and Unit 2 motor driven auxiliary feed water (AFW) pumps' pressure control valves were replaced with cavitating venturis. The reports documenting these inspections were sent to you by letters dated July 20, 1987, and November 25, 1987. As a result of these inspections, significant failures to comply with NRC regulatory requirements were identified, and accordingly, NRC concerns regarding the inspection findings were discussed in an enforcement conference held on October 22, 1987. The letter summarizing this conference was sent to you on November 30, 1987.

The violations discussed during the enforcement conference involved a failure to meet the requirements of 10 CFR 50.59 such that a required license amendment was not sought in support of a plant modification involving a change in the Technical Specifications and an unreviewed safety question. The events or circumstances that resulted in these violations involved the 1984 cavitating venturi installation associated with all four motor driven AFW pumps. This modification resulted in increased system flow resistance which required a change to the pumps' test acceptance value specified in Technical Specifications. Additionally, related post modification testing indicated that with the increased flow resistance, AFW pump 2A-A could no longer provide the flow rate defined in the associated Technical Specification basis as a margin of safety; and therefore, constituted an unreviewed safety question.

Normally, the NRC would issue a Notice of Violation for the violations described above. However, as documented in Inspection Report No. 327,328/85-46, the NRC staff was aware of the installation of the cavitating venturis and monitored their installation in 1984 and 1985. Furthermore, these violations predated the 1985 shutdown of Sequoyah and the extensive subsequent programmatic improvements to the design change process that have been instituted by TVA to ensure that such reviews are appropriately performed.

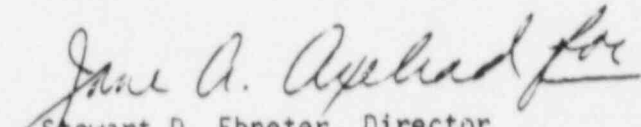
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Consequently, after consultation with the Deputy Executive Director for Regional Operations, I am exercising discretion in accordance with Section V.G of the Enforcement Policy, 10 CFR Part 2, Appendix C (1988) regarding licensees forced into extended shutdowns and will not issue a Notice of Violation or a civil penalty in this case.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulation, a copy of this letter and any response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

This letter is not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, PL 96-511.

Sincerely,


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