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

Gentlemen:

SUBJECT: SEQUOYAH HEALTH PHYSICS PROGRAM - INSPECTION REPORT NOS. 50-327/86-04
AND 50-328/86-04

On January 21-30 and February 12-13, 1986, the NRC staff performed an inspection of Sequoyah's Health Physics Program to evaluate readiness to support unit restart. Six apparent violations of NRC requirements were identified. The number and scope of the apparent violations suggests there may be a programmatic weakness in your management control systems in the health physics area which warrant your prompt attention. The apparent violations identified were as follows:

1. Failure to perform an MPC-hour assessment for a worker who received an internal deposition of radioactive material on December 11, 1985 (10 CFR 20.103(a)(3) and (b)(2)).
2. Failure to maintain respirator issuance records (10 CFR 20.103(c)(2)).
3. Failure to perform adequate radiological surveys to release material for unrestricted use from the regulated area (10 CFR 20.201(b), 10 CFR 20.301).
4. Failure to perform adequate exposure evaluations when pocket dosimeter rezero sheets were lost (10 CFR 20.201(b), 10 CFR 20.101).
5. Failure to adhere to the license conditions of a state licensed disposal facility regarding accessibility of cask rigging gear for a radioactive waste shipment performed on September 27, 1985 (10 CFR 30.41).
6. Failure to perform adequate evaluation of lens of the eye exposure due to noble gas during containment at power entries (10 CFR 20.201(b), 10 CFR 2.101).

Your Sequoyah Nuclear Performance Plan indicated that the TVA dosimetry program had been decentralized. Our inspection found, that Sequoyah does not have the in-house technical expertise to manage a dosimetry program, and Sequoyah staff is heavily reliant on the Dosimetry Section at Muscle Shoals, AL. Only one qualified dosimetry technician is assigned to the Sequoyah Dosimetry Section, and the position of Dosimetry Engineer is vacant. The NRC supports decentralization of the TVA dosimetry program, however, action should be taken to ensure that

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Sequoyah has the level of staffing and technical expertise to adequately meet their responsibilities.

Our inspection also found that Sequoyah is in the process of completely revising their radiation work permit program and their tracking system for MPC-hours and noble gas exposures. These actions were not described in the Sequoyah Nuclear Performance Plan but appear appropriate. Management attention should be given to the implementation of these new programs since they involve significant components of your radiation protection program.

Sincerely,

John A. Olshinski
Deputy Regional Administrator
for TVA

- cc: ✓ H. L. Abercrombie
Sequoyah Site Director
- ✓ P. R. Wallace, Plant Manager
- ✓ K. W. Whitt, Chief
Nuclear Safety Review Staff
- ✓ D. L. Williams, Jr., Supervisor
Licensing Section
- ✓ G. B. Kirk, Compliance Staff
Supervisor
- ✓ J. E. Wills, Project Engineer

- bcc: J. N. Grace
- ✓ H. R. Denton, NRR
- ✓ H. L. Thompson, NRR
- ✓ J. M. Taylor, IE
- B. B. Hayes, OI
Document Control Desk
- ✓ MRC Resident Inspector
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