

Allegation RII-1997-A-0148

On September 11 and 12, the inspectors conducted onsite interviews to complete the actions identified in Allegation Report RII-1997-A-0148. Questions pertaining to NRC staff investigations were answered based on previous inspection activities during scheduled refueling outages. The inspectors posed these questions to the [REDACTED] engineer identified in the alleged letter to Mr. William Holland dated June 10, 1997. 7c

1. Were you (responsible engineer) aware of the discovery of broken ice basket screws at TVA's Watts Bar Nuclear Station?

The engineer stated that he did have knowledge of the Watts Bar ice condenser ice basket screw issue. He stated that the issue was discussed during an ice condenser symposium on June 27, 1995. According to the engineer, the discussion of the Watts Bar findings was lead by the Sequoyah Nuclear Station representative and no representatives from the Watts Bar Station were present.

2. Did you know that the tested ice basket screws were of AISI 1022 carbon steel material?

The engineer stated that he was aware that the ice basket screws used at the Watts Bar facility were of AISI 1022 material. The engineer also confirmed that the ice basket screws used at McGuire Nuclear Station were of the same material.

3. Do you recall a conversation with an individual from TVA concerning failed ice basket screws? If so. What was your response?

No. The engineer stated that he did not recall discussing this issue with any individuals from the Watts Bar facility. The engineer also stated that he could find no documentation of a conversation with any one from the Watts Bar facility concerning this issue.

4. Did you know that through their analysis that cracks were found in screws that were in service and new screws in stock?

The engineer stated that he was aware of the TVA finding of cracks in the ice basket screws but was not aware that new screws in stock were determined to have cracks also.

5. Was the inspection by the NRC made at the McGuire Plant during ice basket servicing period of the outage or after all the maintenance and cleanup had been completed?

Inspections of the ice condenser are performed routinely during scheduled refueling outages. The inspections are performed early in the outage to assess ice condenser condition following periods of extended operation. Prior to unit restart, the inspectors performed routine walkdowns of ice condenser areas to assess licensee performance and evaluate reactor building cleanliness. Foreign material identified during these

inspections is removed by the licensee and disposed of in accordance with station procedures.

During these inspections of Unit 1 and Unit 2 ice condenser areas, no broken screws were identified. On occasion, the inspector noted whole screws that were dropped during maintenance activities.