



Tennessee Valley Authority, Post Office Box 2000, Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee 37379-2000

Robert A. Fenech
Vice President, Sequoyah Nuclear Plant

April 21, 1993

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

Gentlemen:

In the Matter of)
Tennessee Valley Authority)

Docket No. 50-327

SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR PLANT (SQN) - UNIT 1 - FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE DPR-77 -
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION (TS) 3.3.3.8 SPECIAL REPORT 93-02

The enclosed special report provides details concerning the inoperability of the fire detection instruments in Fire Zone 116 for the auxiliary building cask loading area and Fire Zone 354 for the Unit 1 containment upper compartment cooler area. This report is being submitted in accordance with TS Action Statement 3.3.3.8(b).

If you have any questions concerning this submittal, please telephone C. H. Whittemore at (615) 843-7210.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Fenech

Enclosure
cc: See page 2

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cc (Enclosure):

Mr. D. E. LaBarge, Project Manager
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
One White Flint, North
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852-2739

NRC Resident Inspector
Sequoyah Nuclear Plant
2600 Igou Ferry Road
Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee 37379-3624

Regional Administrator
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region II
101 Marietta Street, NW, Suite 2900
Atlanta, Georgia 30323-2711

ENCLOSURE

SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR PLANT UNIT 1 SPECIAL REPORT 93-02

I. PHOTOELECTRIC DETECTORS LOCATED IN THE UNIT 1 CONTAINMENT UPPER COMPARTMENT COOLER AREA

Description of Condition

On March 10, 1993, with Unit 1 in Mode 5, the photoelectric fire detection instrumentation in the Unit 1 containment upper compartment cooler areas (Fire Zone 354) was declared inoperable, and Limiting Condition for Operation (LCO) 3.3.3.8 was entered. Trouble alarms were acknowledged on Panel 629 for Fire Zone 354. A work request was written to investigate, repair, and return the instruments to service, i.e., operable status. A trouble alarm does not always indicate an inoperable instrument.

The work request initiated to correct this condition was combined with an existing outage-related work request of the same nature, i.e., inspecting, repairing, and returning fire detection instrumentation to service. The priority for the new detectors was not clearly defined and, as a result, the existing work order was not completed within the 14 days required by technical specification.

Cause of Condition

The cause for the trouble alarms could not be determined. The PF30 fire detection module was inspected, cleaned, tested, and returned to operable status.

Corrective Action

In accordance with LCO 3.3.3.8 Action Statement (a), the containment air temperature was monitored hourly. The detectors were cleaned and tested; no further action was required. The surveillance instruction was successfully reperformed. LCO 3.3.3.8 was exited on March 25, 1993, at 1653 Eastern standard time.

II. FIRE DETECTORS LOCATED IN THE AUXILIARY BUILDING CASK LOADING AREA

Description of Condition

On March 18, 1993, with Units 1 and 2 in Mode 5, the ionization fire detection instrumentation in the auxiliary building cask loading area (Fire Zone 116) was declared inoperable, and LCO 3.3.3.8 was entered.

Cause of Condition

The detectors in the auxiliary building cask loading area were disabled to prevent the exhaust of diesel trucks from initiating invalid fire alarm signals. This area is used to unload fuel casks and equipment needed to support the Unit 1 Cycle 6 refueling outage.

Corrective Action

In accordance with LCO 3.3.3.8 Action Statement (a), an hourly fire patrol was established to inspect the auxiliary building cask loading area. The patrol will be maintained until outage activities in the area are completed, the detectors can be returned to operable status, and LCO 3.3.3.8 is exited.