

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

NORRIS, TENNESSEE 37828

215 Natural Resources Building

OCTOBER 29 1980

Mr. James R. Patrick, Jr., Chief
Water Enforcement Branch
Environmental Protection Agency, Region IV
345 Constitution Street, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Dear Mr. Patrick:

NOTIFICATION OF NONCOMPLIANCE WITH EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS - NPDES PERMIT
NO. TN0026450 - SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR PLANT

Description of the discharge--Discharge No. 012 - Cooling Tower Blowdown (CTB). A sample collected at 10:30 a.m., October 22, 1980, contained 41.36 mg/l of boron, exceeding the temporary authorized limit of 14 mg/l, which was granted by Sanford W. Harvey, Jr., in a letter to Mohamed T. El-Ashry dated July 31, 1980.

Cause and period of the noncompliance--The noncompliance resulted from a decrease in the CTB flow from 25,000 gpm at 9:00 a.m. to 7,500 gpm at 10:00 a.m. without a corresponding decrease in the flow from the boron waste tank. On September 30, 1980, the CTB flow monitor malfunctioned and an automatic shutoff valve on the waste discharge was wired open while the flow monitor was being repaired. On October 6, 1980, the flow monitor was returned to service, but the automatic shutoff valve was inadvertently left wired open. When the CTB flow decreased on October 22, 1980, the valve was inoperative and the flow from the boron waste tank was not stopped until 11:10 a.m. A sample collected at 2:00 p.m., October 22, 1980, contained 0.36 mg/l of boron, confirming that the period of noncompliance was over. Therefore, the period of noncompliance was only about two hours.

Steps taken to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the noncomplying discharge--At 11:10 a.m., October 22, 1980, the boron waste tank discharge was stopped and by 1:30 p.m., October 22, 1980, the CTB flow had been increased. The maximum boron concentration in the diffuser discharge (No. 024) during this period was 0.41 mg/l, which is much less than the temporary authorized limit of 1.1 mg/l. Thus, we believe that this event had no significant environmental impact on the Tennessee River. The automatic shutoff valve on the waste discharge line has been returned to service and this will prevent any further noncompliances of this nature.

Sincerely,

Mohamed T. El-Ashry, Ph.D.
Director of Environmental Quality

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Mr. James R. Patrick, Jr.

OCTOBER 24 1984

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cc: Tennessee Department of Public Health
Division of Water Quality Control
621 Cordell Hull Building
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Mr. James P. O'Reilly, Director
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