

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE
37401



October 19, 1973



Mr. John F. O'Leary, Director
Directorate of Licensing
Office of Regulation
U.S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, DC 20545

Dear Mr. O'Leary:

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY - BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT UNIT 1 -
DOCKET NO. 50-259 - FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE DPR-33 - ABNORMAL
OCCURRENCE REPORT BPAO-7323W

The purpose of this report is to provide details concerning the malfunction of two turbine condenser low-vacuum switches in unit 1 at Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant on October 11, 1973. This occurrence was reported by telegram to the Region II Directorate of Regulatory Operations, Atlanta, Georgia, on October 12.

Description of the Incident

During routine surveillance testing on October 11, turbine condenser low-vacuum switches PS-2-1A and 1D were found to operate outside the technical specification setpoint of greater than or equal to 23 inches of mercury as specified in Table 3.1.a. The as-found vacuum readings were 22.8 and 22.3 inches of mercury, respectively. The switches are arranged in a one out of two taken twice logic in the Reactor Protection System. The other two channels were tested and found to operate satisfactorily; and, if required, the RPS logic would have performed its intended function. The reactor was in a cold shutdown condition.

Investigation and Corrective Action

The mechanisms of these Barksdale vacuum switches, model DIT-H188S, were inspected for binding, misalignment, or other irregularities. None were found. The switches were recalibrated and then functionally tested several times to ensure repeatability. A functional testing frequency of once every two weeks has been initiated for all four

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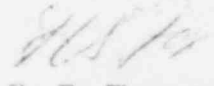
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switches of this RPS function and will be continued until three consecutive tests prove satisfactory performance. At that time, the original test schedule of once a month will be resumed.

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

for 
E. F. Thomas
Director of Power Production

CC: Mr. Norman C. Moseley, Director
Region II Regulatory Operations Office, USAEC
230 Peachtree Street, NW.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303