

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE
37401



September 28, 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 BFAO-7314W

The purpose of this report is to provide details concerning two Target Rock relief valves installed on unit 1 at Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant having setpoints not within specified limiting safety system settings. This condition was reported upon discovery September 19, 1973, to Region II Directorate of Regulatory Operations, Atlanta, Georgia.

Description of the Incident

Following modification and steam testing to meet delay times of 0.4 second and a response time of 0.1 second, reported to F. E. Kruesi, AEC, by J. E. Gilleland, Assistant Manager of Power, on August 29 the unit 1 relief valves were returned to Browns Ferry and installed before initial nuclear heatup and subsequent startup testing to the 150-psig condition. The reactor was placed in the COLD, SHUTDOWN condition on September 11 to permit modification to the drywell ventilation system. In reviewing General Electric Company test certificates, it was discovered that valve serial No. 59 specified to operate at 1090 ± 11 psig had, in a series of four tests, operated at 1064, 1068, 1072, and 1073 psig. Test data for valve serial No. 64 specified to operate at 1100 ± 11 psig showed that it lifted at 1103, 1108, 1113, and 1114 psig in a series of four tests. Test data for all other installed relief valves substantiated that set pressures were within limits.

Investigation and Corrective Action

We have required, as a part of a preoperational test, verification that the certificates for pressure set point of the safety and relief

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valves were compared with the required set pressures. This was signed off in March 1973. In July the relief valves were returned to the vendor for modification and testing because of a response time deficiency. These valves were returned to the plant and installed before beginning nuclear heatup on September 6. Administrative procedures will be strengthened to assure that test certification data sheets are reviewed before valve installation. This will prevent similar occurrences in the future. Approval has been received from the Directorate of Licensing for a temporary technical specification revision to permit operation with these valves until they can be reset in the proper pressures or replaced with suitable valves.

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY


E. F. Thomas
Director of Power Production

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