

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY  
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE  
37401



August 24, 1973



Mr. John F. O'Leary, Director  
Directorate of Licensing  
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-736W

The purpose of this report is to provide details concerning the malfunction of a level switch at Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant on August 16, 1973. This occurrence was reported on August 16, 1973, to W. S. Little, AEC Regulatory Operations Inspector, who was on site, and by telegram on August 17, 1973, to the AEC Region II Directorate of Regulatory Operations.

Description of the Incident

During routine surveillance testing on August 16, 1973, at approximately 10:30 a.m. CDT, level switch LS-73-56B, HPCI condensate header low level, was found to operate outside technical specification trip level setting of equal to or greater than elevation 551. (See Technical Specifications, table 3.2.B, page 65.) The reactor was in a cold, open-vessel condition in preparation for initial criticality and the HPCI system not required to be operable.

Investigation and Corrective Action

The level switch is arranged in a one-out-of-two logic. Either switch will initiate transfer of the HPCI suction from the condensate storage tank to the suppression chamber. Level switch LS-73-56A, which performs the same function, was tested and operated within the technical specification. If the HPCI

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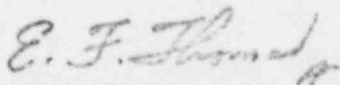
suction valve transfer logic had been required to operate, it would have transferred the suction to the suppression chamber as designed. The switches are Robertshaw Model 83481 Levelac level switches.

The level switch was inspected and the switch spring mechanism found to be sluggish. The mechanism was adjusted to produce a normal positive snap-action operation. The level switch was reset and operated several times to ensure repeatability.

The switch was functionally tested on July 19, 1973, and the results were within the technical specifications. Since we were not at power and the switch malfunctions were discovered during prepower operational routine surveillance testing, we do not consider this a reportable abnormal occurrence. The information is given to provide data for your instrument reliability record system.

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, Georgia 30303