

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY  
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE  
37401



February 7, 1974



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-748W

The enclosed report is to provide details concerning reactor and turbine building ventilation radiation monitor which was removed from service in excess of one hour without providing additional monitoring which occurred on Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant unit 1 on January 28, 1974, and is submitted in accordance with Appendix A to Regulatory Guide 1.16, Revision 1, October 1973.

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

*E. F. Thomas*  
for E. F. Thomas  
Director of Power Production

Enclosure

CC (Enclosure):

Mr. Norman C. Moseley, Director  
Region II Regulatory Operations Office, USAEC  
230 Peachtree Street, NW., Suite 818  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

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## ABNORMAL OCCURRENCE REPORT

Report No.: BFAO-748W  
Report Date: February 7, 1974  
Occurrence Date: January 28, 1974  
Facility: Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant unit 1

### Identification of Occurrence

Reactor and turbine building ventilation radiation monitor was removed from service in excess of one hour without providing additional monitoring.

### Conditions Prior to Occurrence

Reactor operating at approximately 45-percent power during startup testing.

### Description of Occurrence

The radiation monitor was removed from service for routine surveillance calibration on January 28 for 5 hours. The instrument mechanic failed to make the notification specified in the surveillance instruction before removing it from service so a substitute monitor or a sample program could be provided. During our investigation it was discovered that this continuous air monitor had also been removed from service for 7-1/2 hours on January 26 when the calibration work was initiated. The calibration was completed on January 28. During the interim between these two occasions, the monitor was in service and performing its intended function.

### Analysis of Occurrence

The reactor and turbine building radiation monitor functions to continuously monitor and record the activity of the gaseous effluent exhausted through the turbine building, reactor, and refueling zone vents. It was determined that there was no noticeable change in effluent activity during these periods, since the monitor indications were similar as recorded at the beginning and end of these periods and there was no handling of radioactive materials or abnormal plant conditions. Also, the area radiation and air particulate monitors located in the turbine and reactor buildings showed no increase during these periods.

### Corrective Action

The surveillance instruction contains precautions in establishing substitute monitoring if it is known that the monitor will be out of service for more than one hour. Since the instrument mechanic failed to recognize this precaution,

Corrective Action (continued)

action has been taken to emphasize to all instrument mechanics the need for observing all SI precautions. In addition, the following sign has been conspicuously posted on all continuous air monitors:

STOP! PROVIDE REPLACEMENT MONITOR BEFORE THIS UNIT IS REMOVED FROM SERVICE FOR MORE THAN 1 HOUR.

Failure Data

Not applicable.