

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37401

400 Chestnut Street Tower II

34 SEP 21 1984
September 19, 1984
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BLRD-50-438/84-46

BLRD-50-439/84-42

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Region II

Attn: Mr. James P. O'Reilly, Regional Administrator

101 Marietta Street, NW, Suite 2900

Atlanta, Georgia 30323

Dear Mr. O'Reilly:

BELLEFONTE NUCLEAR PLANT UNITS 1 AND 2 - FOREIGN MATERIAL IN BATTERIES BY C&D
BATTERIES - BLRD-50-438/84-46, BLRD-50-439/84-42 - FIRST INTERIM REPORT

The subject deficiency was initially reported to NRC-OIE Inspector
P. E. Fredrickson on August 22, 1984 in accordance with 10 CFR 50.55(e) as
NCR BLN EEB 8416. Enclosed is our first interim report. We expect to
submit our next report on or about August 23, 1985. We consider 10 CFR Part 21
applicable to this deficiency.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with R. H. Shell at
FTS 858-2688.

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

L. M. Mills

L. M. Mills, Manager
Nuclear Licensing

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Richard C. DeYoung, Director (Enclosure)
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Records Center (Enclosure)
Institute of Nuclear Power Operations
1100 Circle 75 Parkway, Suite 1500
Atlanta, Georgia 30339

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ENCLOSURE

BELLEFONTE NUCLEAR PLANT UNITS 1 AND 2
FOREIGN MATERIAL IN BATTERIES BY C&D BATTERIES
BLRD-50-438/84-46, BLRD-50-439/84-42
10 CFR 50.55(e)
NCR BLN EEB 8416
FIRST INTERIM REPORT

Description of Deficiency

During preop test FT-EU-01A, TVA noted that one of the eight Bellefonte vital batteries, battery 1EB-EU-50-D, failed to develop its rated capacity. Through discussions with the battery manufacturer, C&D batteries of Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania, TVA has determined that this reduced output is due to internal shorting of cell plates induced by the presence of "reigel wrap" material. This "reigel wrap," used as a mat between the cell positive plates and the separators, is shedding and filling the cell area normally reserved as sediment space. This material coupled with the normal shedding of active material from the plates increases the potential for internal short circuits.

Interim Progress

TVA is in the process of replacing all eight vital batteries with new ones that do not use "reigel wrap." We will provide additional information after the replacements have been secured.