

215 Natural Resources Building

APRIL 16 1981

Mr. James R. Patrick, Jr., Chief
Compliance Section, Water Enforcement Branch
Environmental Protection Agency, Region IV
345 Courtland Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30365

Dear Mr. Patrick:

NOTIFICATION OF NONCOMPLIANCE WITH EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS - NPDES PERMIT
NO. AL0022080 - BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT

Description of the discharge--Discharge 006 - Sewage treatment plant effluent.
A sample collected on April 7, 1981, contained 62 mg/l of suspended solids,
exceeding the maximum permit limitation of 45 mg/l.

Cause and period of the noncompliance--The causes of this noncompliance are:
(1) poor flow equalization because of clogging of the lift pump in the
equalization tank, (2) insufficient aeration resulting in sludge bulking with
poor settling characteristics, and (3) increased flows and loadings because of
additional maintenance personnel. This combination of poorly settling solids
and high and variable flows results in solids being carried over into the
chlorine contact tank and then into the effluent.

Steps taken to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the noncomplying
discharge--Modifications are being pursued to correct the problems with the
equalization tank. The aeration rate has been increased and the pumping
equipment is being modified to pump the solids out of the chlorine contact
tank before they can be discharged.

Sincerely,

Mohamed T. El-Ashry, Ph.D.
Assistant Manager of Natural Resources
(Environment)

cc: Alabama Water Improvement Commission
Public Health Services Building
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Director, Division of Licensing
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

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