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RICHARD AGNEW
CHIEF MINORITY COUNSEL

March 26, 1985

The Honorable Nunzio Palladino
Chairman
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Chairman

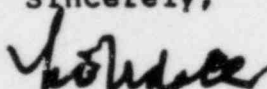
I have received a copy of a recent TVA report (B45 '85 0305 309) concerning pressure monitoring instrumentation at Sequoyah Units 1 and 2. Among questions raised by this report are the following:

1. On what date did the NRC receive B45 '85 0305 309?
2. Was the condition described in B45 '85 0305 309 reportable pursuant to 10 CFR 50.72 or other NRC reporting requirements?
3. Does TVA possess an analysis which demonstrates that the conclusions described in B45 '85 0305 309 are invalid? If so, when was that analysis prepared? When was it given to the NRC? When was it given to the TVA Chief Nuclear Engineer? What was the TVA Chief Nuclear Engineer's response to it?
4. Did the Sequoyah Operating License require that the Sequoyah plants be shutdown following discovery of a condition such as that described in B45 '85 0305 309?

I am considering convening a hearing on this matter and would appreciate your response to the foregoing questions prior to March 30, 1985. If there is insufficient information to provide a complete response by this date, please answer the questions as fully as possible and please indicate when the response will be completed.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



MORRIS K. UDALL
Chairman

B505300142 B50510
PDR COMMS NRCC
CORRESPONDENCE PDR

ENCLOSURE

ANSWERS TO CONGRESSMAN UDALL'S QUESTIONS

QUESTION NO. 1: ON WHAT DATE DID THE NRC RECEIVE B45 '85 0305 309?

ANSWER:

REGION II RECEIVED A COPY OF REVISION 0 AND REVISION 1 OF B45 '85 0305 309 ON MARCH 22, 1985. THIS WAS PROVIDED VOLUNTARILY BY THE LICENSEE IN RESPONSE TO A REGION II TELEPHONE REQUEST. REGION II REQUESTED THIS REPORT IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES FROM THE MEDIA WHICH PUBLISHED NON-TECHNICAL DESCRIPTIONS OF REVISION 0 TO THE NONCOMFORMANCE REPORT.

QUESTION NO. 2: WAS THE CONDITION DESCRIBED IN B45 '85 0305 309 REPORTABLE PURSUANT TO 10 CFR 50.72 OR OTHER NRC REPORTING REQUIREMENTS?

ANSWER:

THE CONDITIONS DESCRIBED IN REVISION 0 TO NCR B45 '85 0305 309 WOULD HAVE BEEN REPORTABLE PURSUANT TO 10 CFR 50.72 IF THE CONDITIONS WERE VALID. WE CURRENTLY UNDERSTAND THAT TVA ON-SITE STAFF CONCLUDED THAT THE NCR WAS NOT TECHNICALLY ACCURATE AND THE CONTAINMENT PRESSURE TRANSMITTERS WERE OPERABLE; THEREFORE, A DETERMINATION WAS MADE THAT A REPORT PURSUANT TO 10 CFR 50.72 WAS NOT REQUIRED. THE NRC IS REVIEWING THE ADEQUACY OF THE LICENSEE'S PROCESS IN MAKING THIS DETERMINATION. IN ADDITION, OTHER REPORTING REQUIREMENT RESPONSIBILITIES ARE BEING REVIEWED.

QUESTION NO. 3: DOES TVA POSSESS AN ANALYSIS WHICH DEMONSTRATES THAT THE CONCLUSIONS DESCRIBED IN B45 '85 0305 309 ARE INVALID? IF SO, WHEN WAS THAT ANALYSIS PREPARED? WHEN WAS IT GIVEN TO THE NRC? WHEN WAS IT GIVEN TO THE TVA CHIEF NUCLEAR ENGINEER? WHAT WAS THE TVA CHIEF NUCLEAR ENGINEER'S RESPONSE TO IT?

ANSWER:

REVISION 1 TO NCR B45 '85 0305 309 CONTAINED CHANGES TO REVISION 0 OF THAT DOCUMENT AND ADDED A JUSTIFICATION FOR INTERIM OPERATION. THE TVA CHIEF NUCLEAR ENGINEER CONCURRED BY SIGNATURE WITH REVISION 1 OF THIS DOCUMENT ON MARCH 22, 1985. BOTH OF THESE DOCUMENTS WERE PROVIDED TO THE NRC ON MARCH 22, 1985, AS STATED ABOVE. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT CURRENTLY HAVE ANSWERS TO THE OTHER PARTS OF THIS QUESTION, THIS MATTER INCLUDING EXAMINATION OF THE UTILITIES ACTIONS BETWEEN RECEIPT OF REVISION 0 AND MARCH 22, 1985 IS PRESENTLY UNDER REVIEW BY THE NRC.

QUESTION NO. 4: DID THE SEQUOYAH OPERATING LICENSE REQUIRE THAT THE SEQUOYAH PLANTS BE SHUTDOWN FOLLOWING DISCOVERY OF A CONDITION SUCH AS THAT DESCRIBED IN B45 '85 0305 309?

ANSWER:

THE SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR UNIT TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS (APPENDIX A TO THE OPERATING LICENSE) REQUIRE THAT THE PRESSURE TRANSMITTERS IN QUESTION BE OPERABLE AND THAT IF THEY ARE NOT OPERABLE, THE UNIT MUST START TO SHUTDOWN IN 48 HOURS AND BE IN HOT SHUTDOWN IN THE NEXT 12 HOURS.

AS DISCUSSED ABOVE, THE OPERABILITY DETERMINATION FOR THESE PRESSURE TRANSMITTERS DIFFERED BETWEEN REVISION 0 AND REVISION 1 OF B45 '85 0305 309. THE TIMING AND ADEQUACY OF THE LICENSEE'S OPERABILITY DETERMINATION ARE CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW BY THE HEADQUARTERS FACT FINDING TEAM.