

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37401

5N 157B Lookout Place

MAY 03 1990

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Gentlemen:

In the Matter of) Docket Nos. 50-327
Tennessee Valley Authority) 50-328

SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR PLANT (SQN) - NRC BULLETIN 88-09, THIMBLE TUBE THINNING IN WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC CORPORATION REACTORS

As required by the subject bulletin, TVA has developed a thimble tube inspection program for SQN Unit 1. Wear acceptance criteria have been established and appropriate corrective actions identified. The criteria and corresponding disposition are as follows.

1. Equal to or greater than 60 percent through-wall loss requires thimble tube plugging.
2. Equal to or greater than 30 percent through-wall loss and less than 60 percent through-wall loss require repositioning the thimble tube by a minimum of two inches.
3. Less than 30 percent through-wall loss requires no corrective action for the next fuel cycle.

The inspection frequency has been established as each refueling outage until a wear database is established, and the inspections will be accomplished by eddy-current testing.

Eddy-current testing and analysis were completed for Unit 1 on April 4, 1990. None of the tubes examined have equal to or greater than 60 percent through-wall loss. Nine tubes have equal to or greater than 30 percent and less than 60 percent through-wall loss. As a preventative measure however, all Unit 1 thimble tubes were previously repositioned at the end of Cycle 3 operation. The wear identified in seven of the nine tubes is indicative of wall loss before being repositioned. Therefore, only two of the nine tubes with equal to or greater than 30 percent and less than 60 percent through-wall loss, Tubes 12 and 46, required additional repositioning. Forty-two tubes have less than 30 percent and greater than 0 percent through-wall loss, and six tubes have no identifiable loss.

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One tube, Tube 29, was inaccessible for full-length eddy-current testing. Although the eddy-current probe would not pass through the tube, incore detection instrumentation will. As a precaution, the tube has been repositioned. This is considered acceptable since examination results for the balance of the thimble tubes indicate that the maximum loss in Unit 1 is 46 percent. Additionally, SQN has adequate makeup capability for a postulated thimble tube leak and has the capability to isolate leaking thimble tubes at the seal table.

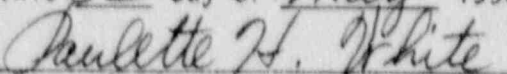
The enclosure provides a list of the three tubes that have been repositioned as a result of the thimble tube inspection program. No commitments are contained in this submittal. Please direct questions concerning this issue to Kathy S. Whitaker at (615) 843-7748.

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY


M. J. Ray, Manager
Licensing Project Management

Sworn to and subscribed before me
this 3rd day of May 1990


Notary Public
My Commission Expires 11-4-92

Enclosure

cc (Enclosure):

Ms. S. C. Black, Assistant Director
for Projects
TVA Projects Division
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
One White Flint, North
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852

NRC Resident Inspector
Sequoyah Nuclear Plant
2600 Igou Ferry Road
Soddy Daisy, Tennessee 37379

Mr. B. A. Wilson, Assistant Director
for Inspection Programs
TVA Projects Division
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region II
101 Marietta Street, NW, Suite 2900
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

ENCLOSURE

<u>Tube Number</u>	<u>Core Location</u>	<u>Most Severe Loss Percentage</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
12	E-9	34	Reposition
29	N-6	Inaccessible	Reposition
46	J-1	46	Reposition