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NRC WITHDRAWAL
FROM MOU WITH TVA INSPECTOR GENERAL

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Office of Investigations (OI) is withdrawing from a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) Inspector General.

The MOU, which was entered into in January 1991, provides, among other things, that OI can refer certain allegations it receives to the TVA Inspector General for investigation. Specifically, allegations that can be referred are those which fall within the jurisdiction of both the NRC and the TVA and those involving fraud, waste or abuse by TVA employees, contractors or subcontractors which do not fall within the NRC's jurisdiction.

One of the primary reasons for entering into the MOU was that OI did not have the resources to look into all of the many allegations received about activities at TVA's nuclear power plant sites. Since that time, however, the number of allegations has declined to levels that are comparable with other NRC-licensed nuclear power plants and can be handled by OI within existing resources.

In addition, there have been indications that referral of allegations under the MOU may have had an adverse effect on individual's confidence that OI would properly address safety concerns brought to its attention. All allegations will now be handled by OI as withdrawal from the MOU is effective immediately.

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