UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET, SW, SUITE 23T85
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931

May 31, 2005

EA-05-036

Tennessee Valley Authority
ATTN: Mr. K. W. Singer
Chief Nuclear Officer and
Executive Vice President
6A Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT FOLLOW-UP: WATT BARS NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 1, WHITE FINDING

Dear Mr. Singer:

The NRC staff recently completed, as part of our continuous review, an update of our assessment of Watts Bar Nuclear Plant. The assessment evaluated performance indicators (PIs) and inspection results. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of your safety performance during this period and our plans for a future inspection at your facility. This letter supplements, but does not supercede, our annual assessment letter issued on March 2, 2005.

On April 11, 2005, the NRC staff forwarded a letter concerning the final significance determination of a White inspection finding in the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone regarding corrective actions for raw water cooling silt problems that resulted in the blockage of a backup cooling line to the 1A Centrifugal Charging Pump (CCP). This new finding was considered in our review.

As a result of our review, we have assessed Watts Bar Nuclear Plant Unit 1 performance to be in the Regulatory Response column of the NRC's Action Matrix. Therefore, in accordance with the NRC Reactor Oversight Process Action Matrix, we plan to conduct Supplemental Inspection Procedure 95001 to better understand the causes contributing to your associated performance issues and your planned corrective actions. We have finalized plans for Mr. P. Kim VanDoorn, an NRC Senior Engineering Inspector, to conduct this supplemental inspection from July 13 - 15, 2005. As discussed and coordinated with Mr. Paul Pace of your Watts Bar Licensing staff, the scheduling of our inspection was dependent upon the completion of your root cause investigation and corrective action plan development as well as the availability of associated members of your staff. The results of ths Supplemental Inspection will be documented via independent NRC Inspection Report 05000390/2005011.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Please contact Stephen Cahill at 404-562-4520 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or our inspection plans.

Sincerely,

/RA by A. Boland for/

Charles A. Casto, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 50-390
Licensee No. NPF-90

cc: (See page 3)

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