



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET, SW, SUITE 23T85
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931

August 31, 2006

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

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN - BROWNS
FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT

Dear Mr. Singer:

On August 2, 2006, the NRC staff completed its performance review of the operating Units 2 and 3 at the Browns Ferry Nuclear Power Plant for the first half of the calendar year 2006 assessment cycle. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results over the previous twelve months. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period for Units 2 and 3, and our plans for future inspections at your facility for all three units.

This performance review and the enclosed inspection plan do not include physical protection information. A separate letter designated and marked as "Exempt from Public Disclosure in Accordance with 10 CFR 2.390" will include the physical protection review and resultant inspection plan.

Overall, Browns Ferry Units 2 and 3 operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives. Plant performance for Browns Ferry Units 2 and 3 for the most recent quarter was in the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Therefore, we plan to conduct reactor oversight process (ROP) baseline inspections for the operating Units 2 and 3. In addition, we plan to conduct non-ROP inspections involving verification of the Mitigating Systems Performance Index, the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation, extended power up-rate modifications and verifications, and followup of license renewal activities.

With regard to Unit 1, we will continue to conduct routine oversight inspections of the Unit 1 Recovery Project in accordance with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Inspection Manual Chapter (MC) 2509, "Browns Ferry Unit 1 Restart Project Inspection Program." As such, we have planned specialized inspections of Unit 1 Special Programs, significant modification work activities, restart testing, regulatory issues, and open items.

We also informed you by our letter dated December 29, 2004, that we will be monitoring Browns Ferry Unit 1 performance in the Occupational Radiation Safety, Public Radiation Safety, and Emergency Preparedness Cornerstones using the normal ROP. Therefore, we only plan to conduct baseline ROP inspections of these areas for Unit 1. The three remaining Unit 1 Cornerstones (i.e., Initiating Events, Mitigating Systems, and Barrier Integrity) will be fully transitioned to the ROP following completion of the Unit 1 Recovery Project. Please note that as this transition progresses several planned ROP baseline inspections related to these Unit 1 Cornerstones will be conducted in accordance with IMC 2509.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to physical protection, scheduled through March 31, 2008. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues well in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last twelve months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle review meeting.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure 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).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change the inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact me at (404) 562-4550 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Malcolm T. Widmann, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 6
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos.: 50-259, 50-260, 50-296
License Nos.: DPR-33, DPR-52, DPR-68

Enclosure: Browns Ferry Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/encl: (See page 3)

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 ADAMS: Yes ACCESSION NUMBER: _____

OFFICE	RII:DRP												
SIGNATURE	HJG1 for												
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DATE	08/28/2006												
E-MAIL COPY?	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES

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Letter to Karl W. Singer from Malcolm T. Widmann dated August 31, 2006

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FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT

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