

December 19, 1996

Tennessee Valley Authority
ATTN: Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, Jr.
President, TVA Nuclear and
Chief Nuclear Officer
6A Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

SUBJECT: SYSTEMATIC ASSESSMENT OF LICENSEE PERFORMANCE (SALP) WATTS BAR
NUCLEAR PLANT - REPORT NO. 50-390/96-99

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

The NRC Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) has been completed for your Watts Bar facility. The facility was evaluated for the period of November 12, 1995, through November 9, 1996. The results of the evaluation are documented in the enclosed SALP report. This report will be discussed with you at a public meeting to be held at the Watts Bar site on January 7, 1997, at 1:00 p.m.

Watts Bar Nuclear Plant (WBN) performance was assessed in four functional areas: Engineering and Maintenance were determined to be superior, Operations and Plant Support were considered to be good.

Operations performance was characterized by good management involvement, control room professionalism and excellent response to plant transients. An effective transition was made from the construction phase to full unit operation. Weaknesses were identified with configuration controls, attention to detail and procedure inadequacies.

Maintenance was effectively planned and implemented with strong management involvement and has been characterized by strong safety system performance and availability, with the exception of the area of calibration and setpoint control. The power ascension test program was carefully planned, coordinated and demonstrated that equipment would perform as designed.

Engineering was characterized by superior performance in aggressively pursuing resolution to design problems that occurred during the power ascension test program. The mid-cycle outage accomplished several modifications to correct design problems and improved equipment reliability.

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In the area of Plant Support, overall performance for radiological controls and emergency preparedness activities was very strong. However, improvement is needed in security equipment availability, contingency planning, security personnel performance, and the quality of security self-assessments.

Nuclear quality assurance has effectively provided oversight review of plant activities. Self-assessments in most areas were thorough and critical.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

I look forward to discussing this assessment with you.

Sincerely,

(Original signed by L. A. Reyes)

Stewart D. Ebnetter
Regional Administrator

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

Enclosure: SALP Watts Bar Report

cc w/encl: (See page 3)

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cc w/encl:

Mr. O. J. Zeringue
Senior Vice President
Nuclear Operations
Tennessee Valley Authority
6A Lookout PL
1101 Market ST
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

Dr. Mark O. Medford, Vice President
Engineering & Technical Services
Tennessee Valley Authority
6A Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

Mr. J. A. Scalice
Site Vice President
Watts Bar Nuclear Plant
Tennessee Valley Authority
P. O. Box 2000
Spring City, TN 37381

General Counsel
Tennessee Valley Authority
ET 10H
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, TN 37902-1499

Mr. R. R. Baron, Manager
Nuclear Assurance & Licensing
4J Blue Ridge
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

Mr. P. Salas, Manager
Licensing & Industry Affairs
4J Blue Ridge
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

Mr. P. L. Pace, Manager
Licensing and Industry Affairs
Watts Bar Nuclear Plant
Tennessee Valley Authority
P. O. Box 2000
Spring City, TN 37381

Mr. R. T. Purcell, Plant Manager
Watts Bar Nuclear Plant
Tennessee Valley Authority
P. O. Box 2000
Spring City, TN 37381

Mr. Michael H. Mobley, Director
Division of Radiological Health
3rd Floor, L and C Annex
402 Church Street
Nashville, TN 37243-1532

Mr. J. D. White, Director
Tennessee Emergency Management
Agency
3041 Sidco Drive
Nashville, TN 37204-1502

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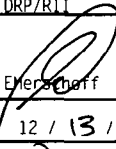

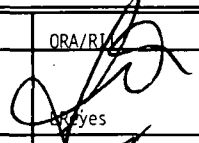
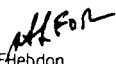
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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Watts Bar Nuclear Plant
1260 Nuclear Plant Road
Spring City, TN 37381

DRS and DNMS Branch Chiefs

Mr. John C. Heard, Jr.
Chief, Technical Hazards Branch
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Suite 706A
1371 Peachtree Street, N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30309

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