



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 12, 1995

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

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION NO. 50-390/95-201 WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 1
OPERATIONAL READINESS ASSESSMENT TEAM INSPECTION

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

This letter transmits the report of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Operational Readiness Assessment Team (ORAT) inspection, conducted from July 31, 1995, through August 4, and August 14 through 18, 1995, of activities authorized by NRC Construction Permit No. CPPR-91 for the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant (WBN), Unit 1. The inspection was conducted by the Special Inspection Branch of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) and included staff from other branches of NRR and the Office of Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data (AEOD).

The ORAT performed an independent assessment of management controls, programs, and personnel readiness to support safe operation of the Unit 1 facility. The inspection was performed during the second hot functional testing program (HFT-2) during which TVA simulated operation under Technical Specification controls. Operation in this condition provided the NRC with a unique opportunity to assess licensee readiness to assume operational control of plant systems and engage in the day-to-day identification and resolution of problems affecting operation. The team's findings were discussed with TVA management at the conclusion of the inspection on August 18, on August 24, and at a public exit meeting on August 25, 1995.

Overall, the inspection determined that, with minor exceptions, TVA has demonstrated readiness for operations in the areas reviewed. TVA's performance was consistent with that of current operating reactors, and operations during the HFT-2 program demonstrated the capability to safely operate the facility. Operating crews were professional in behavior and appearance, and operator command and control were good.

The team identified issues involving procedure compliance. In one case, the Plant Operations Review Committee failed to review a safety evaluation. In the other case, operators failed to implement the correct administrative procedures for configuration control for a spent fuel pool heat exchanger throttle valve. In addition, on two occasions, the same operator inappropriately left the controls of the reactor, and there were two examples of inadequate root cause analyses by the TVA staff qualified to do the analyses.

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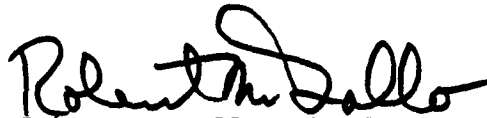
O.D. Kingsley, Jr.

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Because of the continuing testing and construction environment, significant work remained before all systems could be declared operable, as defined by plant technical specifications. Within that context, plant operations were at the level required for safe operations. However, continuing NRC review of control room readiness is warranted.

The NRC Region II office will issue any enforcement actions that may result from this inspection. In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790(a), a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room. Should you have any questions concerning this inspection please contact the inspection team leader, T. Foley, at (301) 415-1036 or the NRC project manager, P.S. Tam, at (301) 415-1451.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Gallo, Chief
Special Inspection Branch
Division of Inspection and Support Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No.: 50-390

Enclosure: Inspection Report 50-390/95-201

cc w/encl: See next page

O.D. Kingsley, Jr.

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Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Robert M. Gallo, Chief
Special Inspection Branch
Division of Inspection and Support Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Tennessee Valley Authority

WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT

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