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: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-390/96-05

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

This letter transmits the report of the U. S. Nuclear Regulation Commission (NRC) Operational Readiness Assessment Team (ORAT) inspection, conducted from March 18, through March 22, 1996, of activities authorized by Licensee No. NPF-90 for the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant (WBN), Unit 1. The inspection was conducted by the Region II Office.

The ORAT performed an independent assessment of the readiness for full-power operations of the Unit 1 facility in the four functional areas of operations, maintenance, engineering and plant support. The inspection was performed during power ascension testing while Unit 1 was operating at levels below 50 percent power. The team's findings were discussed at the conclusion of the inspection on March 28, 1996, at a public exit meeting.

Overall, the inspection determined that TVA continues to demonstrate readiness for operations in the areas reviewed. During this inspection a loss of load event occurred during which the team was able to review plant and operator responses. With one exception, operator command and control during routine and abnormal conditions met or exceeded NRC and TVA standards.

Three areas of concern were discussed at the exit meeting. First, the team noted that event investigation was hampered by cumbersome data gathering techniques. Several of the data recording systems were not synchronized, causing difficulty chronologically reconstructing a sequence of events. Second, a number of secondary plant failures occurred during the loss of load event that indicate a potential negative trend in secondary plant equipment performance. Several component failures complicated operator and plant response to the loss of load. Third, although the operator workaround definition is new, it was not clear that TVA had effectively implemented the definition. Several operator manipulations were noted that do require immediate operator attention during response to abnormal conditions that were not considered workarounds. We are concerned that collectively, and individually, these three issues might complicate operator and plant response during future abnormal conditions. Therefore, you are requested to respond to these issues by providing the NRC with your assessment of each concern and their collective impact. Your response is expected within 30 days from the date of this letter.

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Within the scope of the inspection, violations or deviations were not identified.

In accordance with 10 CFR 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.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Johns P. Jaudon for:

Albert F. Gibson, Director Division of Reactor Safety

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

Enclosure: NRC Inspection Report

cc w/encl:
0. J. Zeringue
Senior Vice President
Nuclear Operations
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TVA Representative Tennessee Valley Authority 11921 Rockville Pike Suite 402 Rockville, MD 20852

(cc w/encl cont'd - See page 3)

(cc w/encl cont'd) Honorable Robert Aikman County Executive Rhea County Courthouse Dayton, TN 37321

Honorable Garland Lanksford County Executive Meigs County Courthouse Decatur, TN 37322

Michael H. Mobley, Director Division of Radiological Health 3rd Floor, L and C Annex 401 Church Street Nashville, TN 37243-1532

Jane A. Fleming 8 Oceanwood Drive Duxbury, MA 02332

## <u>Distribution w/encl</u>:

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NRC PUBLIC

NRC Resident Inspector U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 1260 Nuclear Plant Road Spring City, TN 37381

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(cc w/encl cont'd)
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Rhea County Courthouse
Dayton, TN 37321

Honorable Garland Lanksford County Executive Meigs County Courthouse Decatur, TN 37322

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SEND TO PDR? yes no

OFFICE	SILDES	RILDES	RII:DBS	RU:DR\$	RUIDES	RII: DRP
SIGNATURE			E.D.J			
NAME	CCastorpd	BI/Aller	Electo	GMscDonald	CJulian	D. Taylor
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