

July 17, 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: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RESPONSE TO NRC INSPECTION REPORT
No. 50-390/96-05 - OPERATIONAL READINESS INSPECTION

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

This letter acknowledges your response to NRC inspection report No. 50-390/96-05. Your response addressed three concerns identified by the Operational Readiness Assessment Team inspection. We were concerned that collectively, and individually, these three issues might complicate operator and plant response during future abnormal conditions. Your letter adequately described your response to these concerns.

With regard to NRC Concern 1, "Event investigation was hampered...", your short-term actions to synchronize each of the clock systems should improve event reconstitution. We will continue to follow your long-term solutions. Your action to validate key Emergency Response Facility Data System points is recognized as a positive action to improve event investigation techniques. Similarly, development of Position Response Books is viewed as a positive initiative in event response.

The Operational Readiness Assessment Team was concerned (Concern 2) that a potential negative trend in secondary plant failures existed and that these failures complicated operator and plant response during an event. Your action to install temporary monitoring equipment on key plant parameters was done to detect similar failures to the March 18, 1996, loss of load event. While this equipment aided in detection, it did not preclude the recurrence on April 16, 1996. This temporary instrumentation did, however, provide additional information in event analysis.

Your analysis of secondary plant performance, discussed during the May 10, 1996 meeting, indicated that a negative trend in secondary plant performance did not exist. Nevertheless, we will continue to monitor for trends in secondary plant performance. We remain concerned that equipment failures in the secondary plant could complicate plant response to events and operator performance.

NRC Concern 3 related to your definition of operator workarounds. Your solutions for the three operator workarounds that existed at the time of the inspection appear satisfactory. We will continue to monitor your implementation of the definition of operator workarounds.

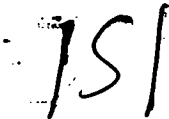
9607230086 960717
PDR ADDCK 05000390
G PDR

1/0

IE01

With regard to the collective impact of these three concerns, your recognition of improvements needed in human performance, the identification and minimization of operator workarounds, and your improvements in the event investigation process are important to overall successful performance of Watts Bar. We acknowledge your initiatives to accomplish these improvements and we will continue to monitor your success in these areas.

Sincerely,



Albert F. Gibson, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-390, 50-391
License No. NPF-90 and Construction
Permit No. CPPR-92

cc: O. J. Zeringue
Senior Vice President
Nuclear Operations
Tennessee Valley Authority
6A Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

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

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

Raul R. Baron, General Manager
Nuclear Licensing
4G Blue Ridge
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

B. S. Schofield
Site Licensing Manager
Watts Bar Nuclear Plant
Tennessee Valley Authority
P. O. Box 2000
Spring City, TN 37381

TVA Representative
Tennessee Valley Authority
One Massachusetts Avenue,
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20001

Honorable Billy R. Patton
County Executive
Rhea County Courthouse
Dayton, TN 37321

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

(cc cont'd - See page 3)

(cc cont'd)
 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

Distribution:

S. D. Ebnetter, ORA/RII
 E. W. Merschhoff, DRP/RII
 A. F. Gibson, DRS/RII
 A. P. Hodgdon, OGC
 B. K. Keeling, GPA/CA
 RII Coordinator, OEDO
 R. E. Martin, NRR
 G. T. MacDonald, RII
 G. A. Hallstrom, RII
 PUBLIC

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

*SEND TO PUBLIC DOCUMENT ROOM?

YES NO

OFFICE	RII:DRS	RII:DRP				
SIGNATURE	<i>CC</i>	<i>ML</i>				
NAME	CCasto:pd	MLesser				
DATE	07 / 17 / 96	07 / 12 / 96	07 / / 96	07 / / 96	07 / / 96	07 / / 96
COPY?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

DOCUMENT NAME: S:\DRS\EB\ACK9605.WBN