

May 26, 1995

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: NOTICE OF VIOLATION
(NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-390/95-10 AND 50-391/95-10)

Gentlemen:

Thank you for your response of April 25, 1995, to our Notice of Violation (NOV) issued on March 17, 1995, concerning activities conducted at your Watts Bar facility. We have evaluated your response and found that it meets the requirements of 10 CFR 2.201. We will examine the implementation of your corrective actions during future inspections.

We are, however, concerned over several specific aspects of your response. In the response you state that analysis has shown that the deficiencies in the NOV were not closely associated to deficiencies in the Vendor Information (VI) Corrective Action Program (CAP). We believe that this CAP is an important program, and it appears that your efforts may have focused narrowly on those deficiencies associated with the VI CAP rather than on the broader programmatic issue of control of current vendor information. The NOV identified that recurrence controls had not been effective in preventing deficiencies during the use of vendor information. The NOV was not limited to just those deficiencies associated with the VI CAP. It should be noted that your assessment (NA-WB-94-0135) also concluded that recurrence controls from past deficiencies had not always been effective in ensuring that correct vendor manual requirements had been implemented through work documents. It should also be noted that your assessment NA-WB-94-0135 identified at least 30 instances in which deficiencies were identified in the use of vendor information. While your previous corrective actions (including recurrence controls) attempted to address (individually) the guidelines for processing design documents or the guidelines for preparing work implementing documents, you should also ensure that the broader issue of deficiencies in the use of vendor information across plant organizational lines is identified, if it recurs.

Another concern relates to your position in the response that the violation occurred because TVA personnel did not effectively communicate to the NRC, at the time of the inspection the ongoing review activities and existing corrective action documents which addressed the identified deficiencies. We disagree with this position and believe that in fact sufficient information existed to support the NOV. We recognize that your process trending methodology contributed to your conclusions about this violation, in that you did not trend specifically against vendor information or the VI CAP.

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With regard to your trending process, the NRC and your staff both have recognized weaknesses in this process during previous NRC inspections and TVA audits/assessments. Although you trend conditions adverse to quality on a process basis, we believe that there are certain major programs (such as CAPs and SPs), activities, and/or equipment and systems for which a deeper, specific focus may be warranted. We will continue to monitor the effectiveness of your trending during future inspections.

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact us. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
Johns P. Jaudon

Johns P. Jaudon, Deputy Director
TVA Construction
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos. 50-390, 50-391
License Nos. CPPR-91, CPPR-92

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