



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET, SW, SUITE 23T85
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931

March 4, 2009

Mr. Preston D. Swafford
Chief Nuclear Officer and Executive Vice President
Tennessee Valley Authority
3R Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER – WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT
(NRC INSPECTION REPORT 05000390/2009001 AND 05000391/2009001)

Dear Mr. Swafford:

On February 12, 2009, the NRC staff completed its performance review of the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2008. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility.

This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter designated and marked as "Official Use Only--Security Related Information" will include the Security cornerstone review and resultant inspection plan.

Overall, Watts Bar Unit 1 operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives. Plant performance for the most recent quarter, as well as the previous three quarters of the assessment cycle, was in the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Therefore, we plan to conduct reactor oversight process (ROP) baseline inspections at your facility. We also plan on conducting non-ROP inspections which include Operator Licensing Examinations, Temporary Instruction (TI) # 2515/173, Ground Water Protection Voluntary Initiative; and TI # 2515/172, Reactor Coolant System Dissimilar Metal Butt Welds.

The inspection and assessment of Watts Bar Unit 2 is performed pursuant to NRC inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 2512, Light Water Reactor Inspection Program - Construction Phase, and IMC 2517, Watts Bar Unit 2 Construction Inspection Program. The assessment results and inspection plans for Unit 2 will be addressed in a separate letter.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to physical protection, scheduled through June 30, 2010. The inspection plan is provided to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues well in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the mid-cycle review.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change this inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact me at 404-562-4659 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Heather J. Gepford, Acting Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 6
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos.: 50-390, 50-391
License Nos.: NPF-90, CPPR-92

Enclosure: Watts Bar Inspection/Activity Plan (03/01/09 - 06/30/10)

cc w/encl.: (See page 3)

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cc w/encl.: (See page 3)

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ADAMS: Yes ACCESSION NUMBER: _____

SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE

OFFICE	RII:DRP	RII:DRP					
SIGNATURE	/RA/	/RA/					
NAME	JBaptist	HGepford					
DATE	3/4/09	3/4/09					
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

cc w/encl:

Gordon P. Arent
New Generation Licensing Manager
Tennessee Valley Authority
Electronic Mail Distribution

Masoud Bajestani
Vice President Watts Bar Unit 2
Watts Bar Nuclear Plant
Tennessee Valley Authority
Electronic Mail Distribution

Ashok S. Bhatnagar
Senior Vice President
Nuclear Generation Development and
Construction
Tennessee Valley Authority
Electronic Mail Distribution

Michael K. Brandon
Manager
Licensing and Industry Affairs
Tennessee Valley Authority
Electronic Mail Distribution

Preston D. Swafford
Chief Nuclear Officer and Executive Vice
President
Tennessee Valley Authority
Electronic Mail Distribution

Thomas Coutu
Vice President
Nuclear Support
Tennessee Valley Authority
Electronic Mail Distribution

General Counsel
Tennessee Valley Authority
Electronic Mail Distribution

John C. Fornicola
General Manager
Nuclear Assurance
Tennessee Valley Authority
Electronic Mail Distribution

Gregory A. Boerschig
Plant Manager
Watts Bar Nuclear Plant
Tennessee Valley Authority
Electronic Mail Distribution

Larry E. Nicholson
General Manager
Performance Improvement
Tennessee Valley Authority
Electronic Mail Distribution

Michael A. Purcell
Senior Licensing Manager
Nuclear Power Group
Tennessee Valley Authority
Electronic Mail Distribution

Michael J. Lorek
Vice President
Nuclear Engineering & Projects
Tennessee Valley Authority
Electronic Mail Distribution

Michael D. Skaggs
Site Vice President
Watts Bar Nuclear Plant
Tennessee Valley Authority
Electronic Mail Distribution

Fredrick C. Mashburn
Acting Manager
Corporate Nuclear Licensing and Industry
Affairs
Tennessee Valley Authority
Electronic Mail Distribution

Senior Resident Inspector
Watts Bar Nuclear Plant
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1260 Nuclear Plant Road
Spring City, TN 37381-2000

County Executive
375 Church Street
Suite 215
Dayton, TN 37321

(cc w/encl cont'd – See pae 4)

TVA

4

cc w/encl cont'd:
County Mayor
P.O. Box 156
Decatur, TN 37322

Lawrence Edward Nanney
Director
Division of Radiological Health
TN Dept. of Environment & Conservation
Electronic Mail Distribution

James H. Bassham
Director
Tennessee Emergency Management Agency
Electronic Mail Distribution

Ann Harris
341 Swing Loop
Rockwood, TN 37854

TVA

5

Letter to Preston D. Swafford from Heather J. Gepford dated March 4, 2009

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Distribution w/encl:

C. Evans, RII EICS (Part 72 Only)

L. Slack, RII EICS (Linda Slack)

OE Mail (email address if applicable)

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P. Milano, NRR

ROPreports.resources@nrc.gov

Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO)