



Tennessee Valley Authority, 1101 Market Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

June 9, 2009

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
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**TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY (TVA) - SUSPENSION OF PERIODIC CONCERNS RESOLUTION PROGRAM INSPECTIONS CONDUCTED BY TVA'S OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL (OIG)**

The purpose of this letter is to inform the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) of TVA's Nuclear Power Group's (NPG) decision to suspend the periodic Concerns Resolution Program Inspections conducted by TVA's Office of Inspector General (OIG). In discussions between TVA's Employee Concerns Program (ECP) Manager and NRC's Senior Allegation Advisor, it was agreed that the NRC Project Managers for TVA sites be informed of the intended suspension of the OIG inspections.

TVA's OIG has periodically performed inspections of the ECP since 1986. The most recent inspection was conducted in May of 2006. The purpose of the OIG inspection was to determine how well the NPG's ECP processed and resolved concerns. The inspection also evaluated the health of NPG's Safety Conscious Work Environment (SCWE) through randomly selected employee interviews.

Currently, NPG uses various additional methods to determine the effectiveness of the ECP and evaluate the SCWE. These methods include Synergy Surveys, Cultural Health Index Surveys, Problem Identification & Resolution Self-Assessments, and ECP Program Pulsings, which are survey/interview activities performed by the Concerns Resolution Staff Site Representative with employees to aid in understanding and monitoring the SCWE. Additionally, beginning in August 2009, self-assessments of the ECP will be conducted every other year as part of the NPG self-assessment program to measure program effectiveness. These types of assessments are consistent with assessment methods used by ECP's across the industry. NPG believes that these additional assessment methods will adequately evaluate effectiveness of the ECP and SCWE, and is therefore suspending the periodic OIG inspection. The OIG inspection will remain a viable option for future assessments if determined necessary by NPG.

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If you have any questions, please contact Brett McCreary, ECP Manager, at (423) 751-8989.

Sincerely,



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