



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION II
245 PEACHTREE CENTER AVENUE NE, SUITE 1200
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-1257

September 1, 2010

Mr. R. M. Krich
Vice President, Nuclear Licensing
Tennessee Valley Authority
3R Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

**SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN – BROWNS
FERRY NUCLEAR STATION UNITS 1, 2 AND 3**

Dear Mr. Krich:

On August 12, 2010, the NRC staff completed its performance review of the Browns Ferry Nuclear Station Units 1, 2 and 3. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2009. 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.

Plant performance for Browns Ferry Units 1, 2, and 3, for the most recent quarter was in the Degraded Cornerstone Column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on having one violation characterized as substantial safety significance (Yellow) and one violation having low to moderate safety significance (White), being issued within the past four quarters. On April 19, 2010, the NRC issued the final significance determination and Notice of Violation for three findings documented in the NRC Triennial Fire Protection Inspection Report (IR 05000259/260/296/2009009). The report contained one violation classified as having substantial safety significance (Yellow) and one violation classified as having low to moderate safety significance (White), in the Mitigating Systems cornerstone. In an assessment follow-up letter dated April 23, 2010, the NRC informed TVA that Browns Ferry Nuclear Station's performance was assessed to be in the Degraded Cornerstone column for violations which originated in the fourth quarter 2009. Your staff has informed us that in late September 2010, you will have completed the preparations for the NRC to conduct a supplemental inspection to review the actions taken to address these violations. Therefore, we plan to conduct a Supplemental Inspection in accordance with Inspection Procedure 95002 in October 2010.

In our Annual Assessment Letter, dated March 3, 2010, a substantive cross-cutting issue (SCCI) in the area of Problem Identification and Resolution was identified for having four findings with the same cross-cutting aspect of "thorough evaluation of identified problems" (P.1.c) and the NRC having a concern with your progress in addressing the cross-cutting issue. Because a corrective action plan has not been developed and scheduled, the NRC has not evaluated your actions to address this issue to date and we continue to have an overall concern with your ability to effectively evaluate and resolve these issues before they become more significant. The staff will review your actions to address this SCCI, when they have been developed and scheduled based on the following: 1) An appropriate and comprehensive range of actions identified by the Corrective Action Program, which will effectively address the cross-cutting theme; 2) No significant increase in the number of findings with the cross-cutting aspect of "thorough evaluation of identified problems" (P.1.c) during the previous twelve month assessment period; and 3) An increased level of confidence in your ability to deal effectively with operational and equipment issues as related to the cross-cutting theme of "thorough evaluation of identified problems" (P.1.c) during the previous six month assessment period.

In addition, in our Annual Assessment Letter, dated March 3, 2010, a cross-cutting theme in the area of Safety Conscious Work Environment (SCWE) was identified based on the December 22, 2009, issuance of a Confirmatory Order for Office of Investigation report numbers 2-2006-025 and 2-2009-003 involving two instances of discrimination. The NRC does not currently have a concern with your scope of efforts or progress in addressing this theme. To ensure the Confirmatory Order actions are being addressed, the NRC continues to conduct follow up inspections in accordance with IP 92702, Follow up On Traditional Enforcement Actions Including Violations, Deviations, Confirmatory Action Letters, Confirmatory Orders, And Alternative Dispute Resolution Confirmatory Orders. Inspections are scheduled as required each year until completion in December of 2013. On this basis, the NRC has not classified this as a substantive cross cutting issue.

Therefore, in addition to the reactor oversight process (ROP) baseline inspections at your facility, we also plan on conducting infrequently performed inspections which include: Reactor operator licensing examinations; 92702, Order Inspection Follow-up; and 95002, Inspection For One Degraded Cornerstone Or Any Three White Inputs In a Strategic Performance Area.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to security, scheduled through December 30, 2011. 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 end-of 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).

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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 Eugene F. Guthrie at 404-562-4662 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Luis A. Reyes
Regional Administrator

Docket Nos.: 50-259, 50-260, 50-296
License Nos.: DPR-33, DPR-52, DPR-68

Enclosure: Browns Ferry Inspection/Activity Plan (09/01/2010 – 12/31/2011)

cc w/encl: (See page 4)

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X PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ☐ NON-PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ☐ SENSITIVE X NON-SENSITIVE
ADAMS: ☐ Yes ACCESSION NUMBER: _____ ☐ SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE

OFFICE	RII:DRP	RII:DRP	RII:DRP	RII:ORA	RII:ORA		
SIGNATURE	CRK /RA/	EFG /RA/	JMM /RA for/	LAR /RA for/	LAR /RA/		
NAME	CKontz	EGuthrie	LWert	VMcCree	LReyes		
DATE	08/27/2010	08/27/2010	08/31/2010	09/01/2010	09/01/2010		
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY DOCUMENT NAME: S:\DRP\PERIODIC ASSESSMENTS & REPORTS\EOC & MID-CYCLE\2010\MID-CYCLE\RPB6\BF\BF MC LETTER 2010 (AFTER MEETING CRK).DOC

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Letter to R. M. Krich from Luis A. Reyes dated September 1, 2010

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN – BROWNS
FERRY NUCLEAR STATION UNITS 1, 2 AND 3

Distribution w/encl:

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