



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

September 1, 2011

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

**SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE LETTER FOR WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT UNIT 1 (NRC  
INSPECTION REPORT 05000390/2011006)**

Dear Mr. Krich:

On August 11, 2011, the NRC completed its mid-cycle performance review of the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant Unit 1. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility. This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter will include the NRC's assessment of your performance in the Security Cornerstone and its security-related inspection plan.

The NRC determined the performance at Watts Bar Nuclear Plant Unit 1 during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix because all inspection findings had very low (i.e., green) safety significance, and all PIs indicated that your performance was within the nominal, expected range (i.e., green). Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct ROP baseline inspections at your facility.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through December 31, 2012. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed during the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle performance review. The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes. We also plan on conducting an initial license exam at your facility in June and October, 2012.

In the days following the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident in Japan, the Commission directed the staff to establish a senior-level agency task force to conduct a methodical and systematic review of the NRC's processes and regulations to determine whether the agency should make additional improvements to its regulatory system. The NRC has since completed Temporary Instruction (TI) 183, "Follow-up to Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Station Fuel Damage Event," and TI-184, "Availability and Readiness Inspection of Severe Accident Management Guidelines (SAMGs)" at your facility. Results of these inspections can be found here:

<http://www.nrc.gov/japan/japan-activities.html>. Additionally, on May 11, 2011, the agency issued NRC Bulletin 2011-01, "Mitigating Strategies," to confirm compliance with Order EA-02-026, subsequently imposed license conditions, and 10 CFR 50.54(hh)(2), and to determine the status of licensee mitigating strategies programs. On July 12, 2011, the NRC's Task Force made its recommendations to the Commission in its report, "Recommendations for Enhancing Reactor Safety in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: The Near-Term Task Force Review of Insights from the Fukushima Daiichi Accident." The NRC is currently reviewing the Task Force's recommendations to determine what additional actions may be warranted.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice, a copy of this letter will be 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

Please contact me at 404-997-4521 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Scott M. Shaeffer, Chief  
Reactor Projects Branch 6  
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos.: 50-390  
License Nos.: NPF-90

Enclosure: Watts Bar Inspection/Activity Plan

In the days following the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident in Japan, the Commission directed the staff to establish a senior-level agency task force to conduct a methodical and systematic review of the NRC's processes and regulations to determine whether the agency should make additional improvements to its regulatory system. The NRC has since completed Temporary Instruction (TI) 183, "Follow-up to Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Station Fuel Damage Event," and TI-184, "Availability and Readiness Inspection of Severe Accident Management Guidelines (SAMGs)" at your facility. Results of these inspections can be found here:

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X PUBLICLY AVAILABLE       NON-PUBLICLY AVAILABLE       SENSITIVE      X NON-SENSITIVE  
ADAMS:  Yes      ACCESSION NUMBER: ML112440199      X SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE

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| OFFICE       | RII:DRP    | RII:DRP    |        |        |        |        |        |
| SIGNATURE    | JDH /RA/   | SMS /RA/   |        |        |        |        |        |
| NAME         | JHamman    | SShaeffer  |        |        |        |        |        |
| DATE         | 08/31/2011 | 09/01/2011 |        |        |        |        |        |
| E-MAIL COPY? | YES NO     | YES NO     | YES NO | YES NO | YES NO | YES NO | YES NO |

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Letter to R. M. Krich from Scott M. Shaeffer dated September 1, 2011

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE LETTER FOR WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT UNIT 1 (NRC  
INSPECTION REPORT 05000390/2011006)

Distribution w/encl:

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OE Mail

RIDSNRRDIRS

PUBLIC

RidsNrrPMWattsBar1 Resource

RidsNrrPMWattsBar2 Resource

ROP Assessment