



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

September 4, 2012

Mr. Joseph W. Shea
Manager, Corp. Nuclear Licensing Programs
Tennessee Valley Authority
1101 Market Street, LP 4B-C
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

**SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT
UNIT 1, REPORT 05000390/2012006**

Dear Mr. Shea:

On August 16, 2012, the NRC completed its mid-cycle performance review of the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2012. 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 assessment reflects the integration of the Security Cornerstone into the ROP performance assessment program.

The NRC determined the performance at Watts Bar Unit 1 during the most recent quarter was within the Regulatory Response Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix because of one greater-than-green Security Cornerstone input as described in Report Number 05000390/2011402 sent on September 20, 2011. On June, 29, 2011, the NRC completed a supplemental inspection for the security issue. Based on the successful completion of the supplemental inspection, the finding was removed from the assessment process after four quarters and Watts Bar Unit 1 will return to the Licensee Response Column in the 3rd quarter 2012. Therefore, based on all other inspection findings having very low (i.e., Green) safety significance and all PIs indicating your performance was within the nominal, expected range (i.e., Green), the NRC plans to conduct ROP baseline inspections at your facility.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through December 31, 2013. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. In addition to the baseline inspections, consistent with the Agency's actions related to Fukushima, the NRC will perform TI-187, "Inspection of Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.3 Flooding Walkdowns" and TI-188 "Inspection of Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.3 Seismic Walkdowns." We also plan on conducting initial reactor operator licensing examinations and Temporary Instruction (TI) 2515/182, Review of the Implementation of the Industry Initiative to Control Degradation of Underground Piping and Tanks. 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

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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. This inspection plan does not include security related inspections, which will be sent via separate, non-publicly available correspondence.

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 No. 50-390
License No. NPF-90

Enclosure: Watts Bar Inspection / Activity Plan (09/01/2012 – 12/31/2013)

cc w/encl: (See page 3)

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Scott M. Shaeffer, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 6
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Docket No. 50-390
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Enclosure: Watts Bar Inspection / Activity Plan (09/01/2012 – 12/31/2013)

cc w/encl: (See page 3)

PUBLICLY AVAILABLE NON-PUBLICLY AVAILABLE SENSITIVE NON-SENSITIVE
ADAMS: X Yes ACCESSION NUMBER: _____ X SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE FORM 665 ATTACHED

OFFICE	RII:DRP	RII:DRP					
SIGNATURE	SMS /RA for/	SMS /RA/					
NAME	CKontz	SShaeffer					
DATE	08/31/2012	08/31/2012					
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\2012\MID-CYCLE\INPUT\RPB6\WATTS BAR\MID CYCLE LETTER WB 2012 (SMSFINAL).DOCX

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Letter to Joseph W. Shea from Scott M. Shaeffer September 4, 2012

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UNIT 1, REPORT 05000390/2012006

Distribution w/encl:

C. Evans, RII

L. Douglas, RII

OE Mail

RIDSNRRDIRS

PUBLIC

RidsNrrPMWattsBar1 Resource

RidsNrrPMWattsBar2 Resource

ROP Reports

Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO)

Watts Bar

Inspection / Activity Plan

09/01/2012 - 12/31/2013

Unit Number	Planned Dates Start End	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
1	09/17/2012 09/21/2012	EB3 ISI IP 7111108P	- UNIT 1 INSERVICE INSPECTION Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	1
1	09/24/2012 09/28/2012	EB3SGISI IP 7111108P	- UNIT 1 SG INSERVICE INSPECTION Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	1
1	10/15/2012 10/19/2012	PSB1EP IP 7111402	- EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS INSPECTION Alert and Notification System Testing	3
1	10/15/2012 10/19/2012	IP 7111403	Emergency Preparedness Organization Staffing and Augmentation System	
1	10/15/2012 10/19/2012	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies	
1	10/15/2012 10/19/2012	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
1	11/12/2012 11/16/2012	OL RQ IP 7111111B	- REQUAL INSPECTION Licensed Operator Requalification Program	2
1	02/04/2013 02/08/2013	PI&R IP 71152B	- PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION AND RESOLUTION Problem Identification and Resolution	8
1	02/18/2013 02/22/2013	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	
1	02/25/2013 03/01/2013	OL EXAM V23389	- INITIAL EXAM PREP WATTS BAR/MARCH 2013 INITIAL EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	3
1	03/18/2013 03/22/2013	OL EXAM V23389	- INITIAL EXAM - WEEK 1 WATTS BAR/MARCH 2013 INITIAL EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	3
1	03/25/2013 03/29/2013	OL EXAM V23389	- INITIAL EXAM - WEEK 2 WATTS BAR/MARCH 2013 INITIAL EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	1
1	06/03/2013 06/07/2013	TI-182 IP 2515/182	- TI-182 BURIED PIPING/TANK - PHASE 1 Review of the Implementation of the Industry Initiative to Control Degradation of Underground Piping	1
1	07/22/2013 07/26/2013	PSB1-RP IP 71124.01	- RP OCCUPATIONAL BASELINE Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	5
1	07/22/2013 07/26/2013	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
1	07/22/2013 07/26/2013	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
1	07/22/2013 07/26/2013	IP 71124.04	Occupational Dose Assessment	
1	07/22/2013 07/26/2013	IP 71124.05	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	
1	07/22/2013 07/26/2013	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
1	08/05/2013 08/09/2013	PSB1-RP IP 71124.01	- RP OCCUPATIONAL BASELINE WEEK2 Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	2
1	08/05/2013 08/09/2013	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
1	08/05/2013 08/09/2013	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
1	08/05/2013 08/09/2013	IP 71124.04	Occupational Dose Assessment	

This report does not include INFO and OUTAGE activities.

This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

Enclosure

Unit Number	Planned Dates Start End	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
1	08/05/2013 08/09/2013	PSB1-RP IP 71124.05	- RP OCCUPATIONAL BASELINE WEEK2 Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	2
1	08/05/2013 08/09/2013	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
1	08/20/2013 08/22/2013	WB TFPI IP 7111105T	- WB - TRIENNIAL FIRE PROTECTION INSP Fire Protection [Triennial]	4
1	09/09/2013 09/13/2013	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]	
1	09/23/2013 09/27/2013	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]	
1	09/23/2013 09/27/2013	OL EXAM V23395	- INITIAL EXAM PREP WATTS BAR/JUNE 2013 INITIAL EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	3
1	10/14/2013 10/18/2013	OL EXAM V23395	- INITIAL EXAM WEEK 1 WATTS BAR/JUNE 2013 INITIAL EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	3
1	10/21/2013 10/25/2013	OL EXAM V23395	- INITIAL EXAM WEEK 2 WATTS BAR/JUNE 2013 INITIAL EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	3
1	10/28/2013 11/01/2013	EP IP 7111401	- EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE Exercise Evaluation	1
1	10/28/2013 11/01/2013	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	

Comments:

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.