



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION II**

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ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-1257

March 7, 2016

Mr. B. J. Burch  
Vice President and General Manager  
BWXT Nuclear Operations Group, Inc.  
P.O. Box 785  
Lynchburg, VA 24505-0785

**SUBJECT: BWXT NOG, PROGRAM ADJUSTMENT REVIEW (NUCLEAR REGULATORY  
COMMISSION INSPECTION REPORT 70-27/2016-001)**

Dear Mr. Burch:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Region II and Headquarters (HQ) staff completed a program adjustment review of the BWXT Nuclear Operating Group (NOG) facility's performance in conducting NRC licensed activities. In accordance with Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 2604, "Licensee Performance Review," the program adjustment review provides an opportunity for adjustments to the inspection program to reflect emergent performance issues that may emerge during the normal 24-month performance assessment period. This review covered the period January 1 through December 31, 2015. The performance of BWXT NOG was evaluated in the following areas: Safety Operations, Radiological Controls, Facility Support, and Other Areas. This letter provides the results of our review and will be the basis for establishing the NRC oversight program.

Overall, the staff determined that BWXT NOG continued to conduct activities safely and securely, while protecting public health and the environment. Based on our review of activities, the NRC determined that an adjustment to the inspection program is warranted. The review identified issues in the area of Safety Operations that resulted in two severity level III violations and two severity level IV violations of NRC requirements. Given the severity levels of those violations, it is estimated that the NRC will conduct one supplemental inspection in the area of Safety Operations during calendar year 2016. The additional inspection will provide an independent assessment of the effectiveness of licensee actions associated with evaluating and correcting the issues identified. The supplemental inspection will focus on operator training, knowledge and understanding of critical parameters and limits, and procedural use and adherence.

Therefore, the NRC will conduct the core inspection program for a Category I Fuel Facility as described in NRC IMC 2600, "Fuel Cycle Facility Operational Safety and Safeguards Inspection Program," for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2016 with one additional Supplemental Inspection.

Unresolved items (URIs) were opened during the conduct of Temporary Instruction (TI) 2600/015, "Evaluation of Licensee Strategies for the Prevention and/or Mitigation of Emergencies at Fuel Facilities" (ADAMS Accession No. ML12286A284.) The NRC issued

Generic Letter (GL) 2015-01: "Treatment of Natural Phenomena Hazards in Fuel Cycle Facilities" (ADAMS Accession No. ML14328A029) to request that licensees submit information to demonstrate compliance with regulatory requirements regarding the treatment of natural phenomena events in the facilities' integrated safety assessments. BWXT NOG submitted this information on September 18, 2015 and NRC HQ is evaluating the response. Additional NRC inspections, beyond the core inspection hours, may be warranted to support the review of licensees' activities in response to NRC GL 2015-01. The inspections will be conducted in accordance with TI 2600/016, "Inspection of Activities Associated with NRC GL 2015-01" (ADAMS Accession No. ML15317A506.) The inspection results from the implementation of this TI will be used to follow up with previously identified URIs regarding the treatment of natural phenomena hazards events, and to inform the closure process of NRC GL 2015-01.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice and Procedure," 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 refer questions and comments regarding your program adjustment review to Mr. Eric Michel, Chief, Projects Branch 2, by telephone at 404-997-4555.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Mark S. Lesser, Director  
Division of Fuel Facility Inspection

Docket No. 70-0027  
License No. SNM-42

cc: (See page 3)

Generic Letter (GL) 2015-01: "Treatment of Natural Phenomena Hazards in Fuel Cycle Facilities" (ADAMS Accession No. ML14328A029) to request that licensees submit information to demonstrate compliance with regulatory requirements regarding the treatment of natural phenomena events in the facilities' integrated safety assessments. BWXT NOG submitted this information on September 18, 2015 and NRC HQ is evaluating the response. Additional NRC inspections, beyond the core inspection hours, may be warranted to support the review of licensees' activities in response to NRC GL 2015-01. The inspections will be conducted in accordance with TI 2600/016, "Inspection of Activities Associated with NRC GL 2015-01" (ADAMS Accession No. ML15317A506.) The inspection results from the implementation of this TI will be used to follow up with previously identified URIs regarding the treatment of natural phenomena hazards events, and to inform the closure process of NRC GL 2015-01.

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Sincerely,  
**/RA/**  
 Mark S. Lesser, Director  
 Division of Fuel Facility Inspection

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 ADAMS: X Yes      ACCESSION NUMBER: ML16067A201      X SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE X FORM 665 ATTACHED

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B. Burch

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