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

April 17, 2017

Mr. Joseph W. Shea
Vice President, Nuclear Licensing
Tennessee Valley Authority
1101 Market Street, LP 3D-C
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

SUBJECT: BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1, 2 and 3 – NRC SECURITY REACTIVE INSPECTION REPORT 05000259/2017406, 05000260/2017406, and 05000296/2017406

Dear Mr. Shea:

On March 3, 2017, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed its initial assessment of the circumstances surrounding the security event, which occurred on March 2, 2017, at Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant Units 1, 2, and 3. Based on this initial assessment, the NRC sent an inspection team on March 6, 2017.

On March 9, 2017, the NRC completed its reactive inspection. On March 9 and April 17, 2017, the NRC inspectors discussed the results of this inspection with you and other members of your staff. The results of this inspection are documented in the enclosed report.

Section 4OA3 of the enclosed report discusses an apparent violation for which the NRC has not yet reached a preliminary significance determination.

We intend to issue our final safety significance determination and enforcement decision, in writing, within 90 days from the date of this letter. The NRC's significance determination process (SDP) is designed to encourage an open dialogue between your staff and the NRC; however, neither the dialogue nor the written information you provide should affect the timeliness of our final determination. We ask that you promptly provide any relevant information that you would like us to consider in making our determination. We are currently evaluating the significance of this finding and will notify you in a separate correspondence once we have completed our preliminary significance review. You will be given an additional opportunity to provide additional information prior to our final significance determination unless our review concludes that the finding has very low safety significance (i.e., Green).

One cross-cutting aspect was assigned to the finding in the area of Human Performance. Specifically, because Browns Ferry staff failed to recognize and plan for the possibility of mistakes, latent issues, and inherent risk, even while expecting successful outcomes and individuals failed to implement appropriate error reduction tools [H.12, Avoid Complacency].

This letter will be made available for public inspection and copying at https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html and at the NRC Public Document Room in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390, "Public Inspections, Exemptions, Requests for Withholding." However, the enclosed report contains Security-Related Information, so the enclosed report will not be made publicly available in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390(d)(1). If you choose to provide a response that contains Security-Related Information, please mark your entire response "Security-Related Information–Withhold from public disclosure under 10 CFR 2.390" in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390(d)(1) and follow the instructions for withholding in 10 CFR 2.390(b)(1). The NRC is waiving the affidavit requirements for your response in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390(b)(1)(ii).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Anthony T. Gody, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

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

Enclosure:
NRC IR 05000259/2017406, 05000260/2017406 and
05000296/2017406, w/Attachment:
Supplemental Information (OUO)

cc: (See page 3)

cc:
Mr. Steven M. Bono
Site Vice President
Browns Ferry Nuclear Station
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Mr. P. L. Parker
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