



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

December 7, 1995

50-296

Tennessee Valley Authority
Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, Jr.,
President, TVA Nuclear, and Chief
Nuclear Officer
6A Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION NO. 50-296/95-201, BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 3,
OPERATIONAL READINESS ASSESSMENT TEAM INSPECTION

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

This letter transmits the report of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Operational Readiness Assessment Team (ORAT) inspection, conducted from October 10 through 20, 1995, of activities authorized by NRC Operating License No. DPR-68 for the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Unit 3. The inspection was conducted by the Special Inspection Branch of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) and included staff from other branches of NRR and from the four NRC Regions. The ORAT performed an independent assessment of management controls, programs, and personnel readiness to support safe operation of the Unit 3 facility. The team's findings were discussed with your plant management at the conclusion of the inspection on October 20, 1995, and at a public exit meeting on October 27, 1995.

Overall, the inspection determined that TVA has demonstrated readiness for Unit 3 operations in the areas reviewed. TVA's performance was consistent with that of current operating reactors, and activities observed demonstrated the capability to safely operate the facility. The management at Browns Ferry was considered a strength. Management had arranged for insightful and critical assessments of performance, was well aware of the areas requiring attention, was aggressive in addressing problem areas, and had performed a thorough self-assessment of readiness for operation. The team also considered the area of engineering to be strong. The other areas examined-- operations, maintenance, surveillance testing, fire protection, and safety assessment and quality verification-- were considered adequate for operation.

The team identified four deficiencies (listed in Appendix A): (1) a procedure which did not ensure that fire dampers would close in a fire area, (2) examples of inadequate operations procedures such as errors in troubleshooting procedures, (3) operators failing to make procedure-required log entries for actions such as pump starts, and (4) maintenance personnel not following procedures for activities such as record reviews of completed work. The team findings agreed with the broad conclusions reached in your self-assessments, that attention to detail in procedure preparation and staff rigor in procedure compliance were areas that required attention to achieve improved performance levels.

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The NRC Region II office will issue any enforcement actions that may result from this inspection. In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790(a), a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room. Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, please contact the inspection team leader, Paul P. Narbut, at (301) 415-2962 or the NRC project manager, Joseph F. Williams, at (301) 415-1470.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Gallo, Chief
Special Inspection Branch
Division of Inspection and Support Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No.: 50-296

Enclosure: Inspection Report 50-296/95-201

cc w/encl: See next page