



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

FEB 12 1990

Docket Nos. 50-259, 50-260,
and 50-296

Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, Jr.
Senior Vice President, Nuclear Power
Tennessee Valley Authority
6N 38A Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

On January 22 and 23, 1990, NRC senior managers met to review the performance of nuclear power plants licensed to operate by the NRC. This meeting is conducted semiannually to focus NRC resources on those plants and issues of greatest safety significance. At this meeting, Browns Ferry was discussed. It was decided that it is appropriate to maintain Browns Ferry Units 1, 2, and 3 in the category of plants that require NRC authorization to operate and receive close monitoring by the NRC. Plants placed in this category are having or have had significant weaknesses that warrant maintaining the plant in a shutdown condition until the licensee can demonstrate to the NRC that adequate programs have both been established and implemented to ensure substantial improvement.

A summary of discussions held relating to Browns Ferry is provided below:

Engineering work at the site has recently shown an improved trend in both quality and timeliness. However, your own verification efforts are still showing areas requiring significant modification, thereby, resulting in a further slippage in your restart effort. Improvements in other areas have occurred: approach to resolution of problems (fix instead of analyze), conservative approach to issues and stability of management organization.

In the area of operational readiness, we are concerned about the error rate in performing surveillances. We also have concerns regarding operator readiness as indicated in your 1989 requalification examination results.

The NRC staff's inspection program continues to find mixed results. While good results were obtained from the Appendix R and maintenance inspections, surveillance and design change inspections were less positive. These results continue to confirm the staff's ongoing assessment that successful implementation of the Unit 2 programs is still a goal not yet achieved. Other areas receiving enhanced staff attention include equipment qualification and electrical design.

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Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, Jr.

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An NRC Commission meeting open to the public has been scheduled for February 15, 1990 to review the results of the latest meeting of NRC managers. Mr. Dennis M. Crutchfield, Associate Director for Special Projects, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, has discussed the basis for our conclusions with regard to the Browns Ferry facility with you or members of your staff.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:
James M. Taylor

James M. Taylor
Executive Director
for Operations

cc: See next page

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