



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

January 22, 1991

Docket Nos. 50-259
50-260
50-269

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 8 and 9, 1991, 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:

There has been an improvement in management involvement and attention to detail at the Browns Ferry facility. Clearer lines of authority and responsibility have been established. On site management stability has improved. In general, TVA's betterment programs are resulting in improved performance. Progress has been made in modification, walkdown, review, and turnover of systems for fuel load. However, NRC continues to be concerned about failure to meet restart milestones. The licensee needs to ensure that all commitments for restart of Unit 2 are met and that the appropriate monitoring and operational controls are in place for an optimal restart after such an extensive shutdown. The NRC staff will conduct a comprehensive readiness assessment prior to making a recommendation to the Commission regarding authorization of restart.

An NRC Commission meeting, open to the public, has been scheduled for January 24, 1991, to review the results of the latest meeting of NRC managers. Mr. Stewart D. Ebnetter, the Region II Administrator, has discussed the basis for our conclusions with regard to the Browns Ferry facility with you or members of your staff.

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Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley

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January 22, 1991

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

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:
James M. Taylor

James M. Taylor
Executive Director
for Operations

DISTRIBUTION:

JMTaylor
JHSniezek
SEbnetter
TEMurley
WBateman
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|------|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|---|
| OFC | : RA Region II | : DONRR | : EDO | : DD:EDO | : D:EDO | : |
| NAME | : SEbnetter <i>(as subverted)</i> | : TMurley | : BBateman | : JSniezek | : JTaylor | : |
| DATE | : 01/15/91 | : 01/16/91 | : 01/16/91 | : 01/16/91 | : 01/16/91 | : |

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Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley

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cc:

M. Runyon, Chairman
Tennessee Valley Authority
ET 12A 7A
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, TN 37902

J. B. Waters, Director
Tennessee Valley Authority
ET 12A 9A
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, TN 37902

W. F. Willis
Chief Operating Officer
ET 12B 16B
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, TN 37902

D. Nunn, Vice President
Nuclear Projects
Tennessee Valley Authority
1101 Market Street
6A Lookout Place
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

Dr. M. O. Medford
Vice President, Nuclear Assurance,
Licensing and Fuels
Tennessee Valley Authority
6N 38A Lookout Place
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

Chairman, Limestone County
Commission
P. O. Box 188
Athens, AL 35611

Regional Administrator, Region II
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
101 Marietta Street, N.W.
Atlanta, GA 30323

Senior Resident Inspector
Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Route 12, Box 637
Athens, AL 35611

O. J. Zerinque, Site Director
Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant
Tennessee Valley Authority
P. O. Box 2000
Decatur, AL 35602

E. G. Wallace, Manager
Nuclear Licensing and
Regulatory Affairs
Tennessee Valley Authority
5N 157B Lookout Place
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

P. Carrier, Site Licensing Manager
Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant
Tennessee Valley Authority
P. O. Box 2000
Decatur, AL 35602

L. W. Myers, Plant Manager
Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant
Tennessee Valley Authority
P. O. Box 2000
Decatur, AL 35602

TVA Representative
Rockville Office
11921 Rockville Pike
Suite 402
Rockville, MD 20852

General Counsel
Tennessee Valley Authority
400 West Summit Authority
ET 11B 33H
Knoxville, TN 37902

Claude Earl Fox, M.D.
State Health Officer
State Department of Public Health
State Office Building
Montgomery, AL 36130