



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

February 3, 1992

Docket No. 50-259  
Docket No. 50-260  
Docket No. 50-296

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

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

On January 14 and 15, 1992, NRC senior managers met to review the performance of nuclear power plants licensed to operate by the NRC. These meetings are conducted semiannually to focus NRC resources on those plants and related issues of greatest safety significance. At this meeting, Browns Ferry was discussed.

At the Commission Meeting in April 1991, Browns Ferry Unit 2 received Commission approval to restart upon completion of all outstanding restart commitments. On May 23, 1991, the Region II Regional Administrator, in consultation with myself and the Director of NRR, determined that TVA had met all outstanding restart commitments and granted permission to restart Unit 2. This action resulted in Browns Ferry Unit 2's shifting from a category of plants requiring Commission approval to restart to a category of plants requiring close monitoring. Plants in this latter category have been identified as having weaknesses that warrant increased NRC attention from both Headquarters and the Regional Office until the licensee demonstrates a period of improved performance.

Browns Ferry Units 1 and 3 will be maintained in the category of plants that requires NRC authorization to operate and receives 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 been both established and implemented to ensure substantial improvement.

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

TVA's betterment and corrective action programs continue to contribute to improved performance. Subsequent to criticality of the Unit 2 reactor on May 24, 1991, the Browns Ferry staff completed the power ascension programs in a deliberate and thorough manner with a minimum of problems. The NRC staff monitored the startup, power ascension, and operations and will continue to observe operations to enable an assessment of sustained operational performance

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prior to NRC senior management's making a decision on change of category for Unit 2. Browns Ferry Units 1 and 3 remain in their present status, which requires NRC authorization to restart.

An NRC Commission meeting, open to the public, has been scheduled for February 5, 1992, 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 members of your staff.

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

cc: See next page

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\*See previous concurrence

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JSniezek

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JTaylor

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

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

W. H. Kenney, Director  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
ET 12A  
400 West Summit Hill Drive  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

W. F. Willis  
Senior Executive Officer  
ET 12B  
400 West Summit Hill Drive  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

D. Nunn, Vice President  
Nuclear Projects  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
3B Lookout Place  
1101 Market Street  
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

Dr. M. O. Medford  
Vice President, Nuclear Assurance,  
Licensing and Fuels  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
3B Lookout Place  
1101 Market Street  
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

Chairman, Limestone County  
Commission  
Post Office Box 188  
Athens, Alabama 35611

O. J. Zeringue, Site Vice President  
Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
Post Office Box 2000  
Decatur, Alabama 35609

Mark J. Burzynski, Manager  
Nuclear Licensing and  
Regulatory Affairs  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
5B Lookout Place  
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

R. R. Baron, Site Licensing Manager  
Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
Post Office Box 2000  
Decatur, Alabama 35609

J. A. Scalice, Plant Manager  
Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
Post Office Box 2000  
Decatur, Alabama 35609

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

General Counsel  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
ET 11H  
400 West Summit Hill Drive  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

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

NRC Senior Resident Inspector  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Route 12, Box 637  
Athens, Alabama 35611