

**Watts Bar Nuclear Plant - Focused Engineering Inspection
Initial Information Request**

Inspection Procedure: 71111.21N.04, "Age-Related Degradation," dated July 1, 2023 (ADAMS ML23192A837)

Inspection Dates: Information Gathering Visit: December 11-14, 2023
Preparation Week: January 16-19, 2024
Onsite Week 1: January 22-26, 2024
Onsite Week 2: February 5-9, 2024

Inspection Report: 05000390/2024010 and 05000391/2024010 (Standalone Inspection Report)

Inspectors: Paul Carman (lead), Justin Copeland, Chris Even, Jonathan Lizardi

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that four inspectors from Region II will conduct an inspection at your site in accordance with Inspection Procedure 71111.21N.04, "Age-Related Degradation." This is not considered a team inspection. The inspection will evaluate the implementation of engineering performance and maintenance activities for age-related degradation of structures, systems, and components (SSCs) and their ability to provide reasonable assurance of the safe operation of Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2. The inspectors will select samples of components that are risk significant and within the scope of the program.

On December 11, 2023, Mr. Chris Even, a Senior Reactor Inspector from the NRC's Region II office, will begin the inspection with an information gathering visit to the site. The purpose of the information gathering visit is to become familiar with the station's maintenance, surveillance, testing, inspection, and condition monitoring programs, become familiar with plant layout, support identification of structures, systems, and components (SSCs) that will be reviewed during the inspection, and, as necessary, obtain plant specific site access training and badging for unescorted site access. An initial list of documents that the team will review during the information gathering visit are listed in the attached enclosure.

To minimize the impact on your staff and to ensure a productive inspection, we have enclosed two separate requests for information needed prior to the onsite information gathering visit and offsite inspection preparation week. The first request is generally for information that will be used to choose the inspection samples or information that will be applicable to all inspection samples throughout the inspection. This information should be made available to the team lead prior to the information gathering visit. The second request is for information specific to individual samples and should be made available prior to the inspection preparation week.

Please provide the information requested for the information gathering visit to the Region II Office or a file sharing site by December 1, 2023. Additional documents may be requested during the information gathering visit. The inspectors will try to minimize your administrative burden by specifically identifying only those documents required for inspection preparation. The additional information should be provided to the inspectors in the Region II office or a file sharing site by January 12, 2024.

During the information gathering visit, Mr. Even will also discuss the following inspection support administrative details: (1) availability of knowledgeable plant engineering and licensing personnel to serve as points of contact during the inspection, (2) method of tracking inspector requests during the inspection, (3) computer access, (4) working space, (5) arrangements for site access, and (6) other applicable information.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT

This letter contains voluntary information collections that are subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved these information collections (approval number 3150-0011). The burden to the public for these information collections is estimated to average 60 hours per response. Send comments regarding this information collection to the Information Services Branch, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Mail Stop: T6A10M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by e-mail to Infocollects.Resource@nrc.gov, and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, (3150-0011) Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

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The NRC may not conduct nor sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a request for information or an information collection requirement unless the requesting document displays a currently valid OMB control number. This letter, its enclosure, and your response (if any) will be made available for public inspection and copying at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> and at the NRC Public Document Room in accordance with Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations 2.390, "Public Inspections, Exemptions, Requests for Withholding."

Information Request for Watts Bar Nuclear Plant - Focused Engineering Inspection (Age-Related Degradation)

Please provide the information electronically in “.pdf” files, Excel, or other searchable format on CDROM (or FTP site, SharePoint, etc.). The CDROM (or website) should be indexed and hyperlinked to facilitate ease of use.

Contact Information: Paul Carman
(404) 997-4471
Paul.Carman@nrc.gov

Information Gathering Visit: An information gathering visit is currently scheduled the week of December 11, 2023. During this visit, we would like to identify the component samples for this inspection. We’d like to meet with aging program specialists to discuss the upcoming inspection and our sample selection process. Purposes of the site visit are to (a) discuss the scope of the planned inspection; (b) obtain advance information to review in preparation for the inspection; (c) ensure that the information to be reviewed is available at the beginning of the inspection; and (d) verify that logistical issues (such as obtaining both site and computer system access and arranging the location of the inspection team working area) will be resolved prior to inspector arrival. Please reserve a room during the scheduled inspection dates. We request the room have a telephone, wireless internet access, and a licensee computer with access to procedures, corrective action program documents, and a printer.

Logistics:

Information gathering visit: December 11-14, 2023
Onsite inspection weeks: January 22-26, and February 5-9, 2024

Please schedule an entrance meeting for around 2:00 p.m. on Monday, January 22, 2024 (approximately 15 minutes). The date and time of the exit meeting will be discussed at a later date. In addition, I’d like to have a daily debrief with your inspection support staff at a convenient time in the afternoons for both onsite inspection weeks (Time TBD, approximately 30 minutes).

We will need a conference room as workspace for the inspectors. We will also need an area available for conducting interviews. Please provide access to your document system (preferably at least one computer in our conference room), nearby printers, and Wi-Fi access.

During the information gathering visit, please provide info on (1) conference room location & phone number, (2) cafeteria location/hours, and (3) procurement and engineering staff normal working hours. Also, please let me know if there are any potential resource conflicts during our scheduled inspection weeks (Fridays off, EP drills, management retreats) and we’ll do our best to accommodate.

Team Members: Paul Carman (Inspection Lead)
Justin Copeland
Chris Even
Jonathan Lizardi

Please verify the status of access authorization and requirements for unescorted access for each inspector. Please provide me with a list of exceptions, and I will address them.

Enclosure

Documents Requested Prior to Information Gathering Visit:

The documents and information requested below should generally be made available to the inspection team for the team's use both onsite and offsite during the information gathering visit. Electronic format is the preferred media. If electronic media is made available via an internet-based remote document management system, then the remote document access must allow inspectors to download, save, and print the documents in the NRC's regional office. Electronic media on compact disc or paper records (hard copy) are acceptable. At the end of the inspection, the documents in the team's possession will not be retained.

This document request is based on typical documents that a generic plant might have. As such, it is not meant to imply that any specific plant is required to have all the listed documents. In addition, your plant specific document titles may vary from the document titles listed below. We also request that the information provided be sorted by the list below.

Documents requested by December 1, 2023:

1. A word-searchable current version of the station Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR).
2. A word-searchable current version of the station Technical Specifications (TS).
3. A word-searchable current version of the station Quality Assurance Program Document.
4. The technical requirements manual (TRM).
5. List of corrective action documents related to aging degradation and the aging programs since January 1, 2019. Please list CRs associated with component failures, or tagged with "aging, "age-related", "wear", "accelerated wear", "abnormal wear", "accelerated degradation", "abnormal degradation", etc.
6. List of 50.65 (a)(1) SSCs from the past 5 years.
7. Site specific functional failures from the past 5 years.
8. Site specific performance indicators.
9. Part 21 Reports applicable to the site from the past 5 years.
10. List of RISC-1, RISC-2, and RISC-3 SSCs (for licensees that implement 10 CFR 50.69).
11. List of risk-significant long-lived passive SSCs (for licensees in the period of extended operation (PEO)).
12. Maintenance rule scoping and performance criteria.
13. Safety significant functions identified during the RISC categorization process, and alternative treatment requirements (for licensees that implement 10 CFR 50.69).
14. Aging management programs (AMPs) procedures.
15. Any self-assessments or QA assessments of the aging management programs (performed since January 1, 2021).
16. List of systems (system numbers/designators and corresponding names)

Documents Requested Prior to Inspection Preparation Week:

For the samples identified by the team lead, the documents and information requested below should generally be made available to the inspection team for the team's use both onsite and offsite during the inspection. Electronic format is the preferred media. If electronic media is made available via an internet-based remote document management system, then the remote document access must allow inspectors to download, save, and print the documents in the NRC's regional office. Electronic media on compact disc or paper records (hard copy) are acceptable. At the end of the inspection, the documents in the team's possession will not be retained.

This document request is based on typical documents that a generic plant might have. As such, it is not meant to imply that any specific plant is required to have all the listed documents. In addition, your plant specific document titles may vary from the document titles listed below. We also request that the information provided be sorted by the list below for each sample.

Documents requested by January 12, 2024:

1. Self-imposed and vendor recommendations.
2. Site specific probabilistic risk assessment (PRA) identifying risk-significant functions for the SSC.
3. Past maintenance, surveillance, testing, inspection, and condition monitoring testing results. For periodicities greater than two years, the last two test results.
4. TS operability determinations.
5. Actions taken for issues identified during performance of maintenance, surveillance, testing, inspection, and condition monitoring.
6. Last evaluation of maintenance effectiveness required per 10 CFR 50.65(a)(3).
7. Last feedback and process adjustment required per 10 CFR 50.69(e)(1) (for licensees that implement 10 CFR 50.69).
8. Any on-going reviews of both plant-specific and industry operating experience performed in the last two years that informed or enhanced AMPs (for licensees in the PEO).
9. EPRI PM Templates.
10. System health report.
11. Maintenance, surveillance, testing, inspection, and condition monitoring testing requirements, procedures, acceptance criteria, and periodicities.
12. Bases documents associated with maintenance, surveillance, testing, inspection, and condition monitoring testing requirements, acceptance criteria, and periodicities.
13. System DBDs.
14. Component drawings.
15. Bill of material.
16. Certificates of Compliance/Conformance.
17. Procurement and design specifications.
18. Qualification test reports.