



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
REGION II  
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
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ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931

March 3, 2008

Mr. William R. Campbell, Jr.  
Chief Nuclear Officer and Executive Vice President  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
6A Lookout Place  
1101 Market Street  
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER – BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT  
(NRC INSPECTION REPORT 05000259/2008001, 05000260/2008001 AND  
05000296/2008001)**

Dear Mr. Campbell:

On February 7, 2008, the NRC staff completed its performance review of the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2007. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility.

This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter designated and marked as "Official Use Only-Security-Related Information" will include the security cornerstone review and resultant inspection plan.

Overall, Browns Ferry Units 1, 2, and 3 operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and met all cornerstone objectives with moderate degradation in safety performance.

Unit 1 plant performance for the most recent quarter was within the Degraded Cornerstone column of the NRC's Action matrix based on exceeding the Yellow threshold in the Initiating Events Cornerstone under the Unplanned Scrams per 7000 Critical Hours PI. Unit 1 resumed operation on May 22, 2007 and was within the Licensee Response column of the NRC's Action matrix for the second and third quarters of the assessment cycle. Based on guidance in Inspection Manual Chapter 0305 and outlined in a letter to your staff dated December 6, 2007, the Unplanned Scrams per 7000 Critical Hours PI became valid beginning the fourth quarter of 2007. Due to the number of scrams and the limited number of critical hours, the Unplanned Scrams per 7000 Critical Hours PI became valid within the Yellow threshold during the fourth quarter of the assessment cycle.

When we have been notified by your staff of your readiness, the NRC will conduct a supplemental inspection for Unit 1 using Inspection Procedure 95002, "Inspection For One Degraded Cornerstone Or Any Three White Inputs In a Strategic Performance Area," in addition to routine reactor oversight program (ROP) baseline inspections.

Units 2 and 3 Plant performance for the most recent quarter, as well as for the first three quarters of the assessment cycle, were within the Licensee Response column of the NRC's

Action Matrix, based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green).

Additionally, the staff identified that there were more than 3 Green inspection findings for the current 12-month assessment period with documented cross-cutting aspects in the area of Problem Identification and Resolution (PI&R), and that there is a cross-cutting theme in the aspect of appropriate and timely corrective action (P.1(d)) associated with these findings. In evaluating your scope of efforts and progress in addressing the cross-cutting theme, the staff determined that a substantive cross-cutting issue exists in the area of PI&R. The NRC staff plans to continuously monitor the affected aspect as a focal point during routine resident inspector baseline inspections, as well as, perform a focused baseline inspection of your Corrective Action Program, assess your efforts to ensure effective and timely corrective action in the semi-annual trend review of the Corrective Action Program, and increase the PI&R annual sample reviews to the maximum allowed per inspection procedure 71152. Additionally, the biennial PI&R inspection, originally planned for 2009, has been re-scheduled for October 2008. This substantive cross-cutting issue can be cleared if your corrective actions in this affected area show evidence of effectiveness during the 2008 inspection period; as demonstrated by no new Greater-than-Green findings with the same cross-cutting aspect, a small number of new Green findings that are examples of the same common theme, and evidence of improvement as described in the Browns Ferry Turn Around Plan and the corrective action trend Problem Evaluation Report 136489.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to security, scheduled through June 30, 2009. We also plan on conducting non-ROP inspection TI2515/171, Verification of Site Specific (B.5.b) Phase 2 and 3 Mitigation Strategies. The inspection plan is provided to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues well in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the mid-cycle review.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change this inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact Rebecca Nease at 404-562-4530 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Victor M. McCree,  
Acting Regional Administrator

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

License Nos.: DPR-33, DPR-52, DPR-68

Enclosure: Browns Ferry Inspection/Activity Plan (03/01/08 – 06/30/09)

cc w/encl: (See next page)

cc w/encl.:

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**BF**  
**Inspection / Activity Plan**  
**03/01/2008 - 06/30/2009**

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Type
	<b>OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM</b>		<b>3</b>			
1	V23278	BROWNS FERRY/FEBRUARY 2008 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES		02/25/2008	03/07/2008	Not Applicable
	<b>EB3-ISI - UNIT 3 - ISI</b>		<b>1</b>			
3	IP 7111108G	Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR		03/24/2008	03/28/2008	Baseline Inspections
	<b>PSB1-RP - RAD PROTECTION - ACCESS CONTROLS</b>		<b>1</b>			
1, 2, 3	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		03/31/2008	04/04/2008	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness		03/31/2008	04/04/2008	Baseline Inspections
	<b>PSB1-EP - EP INSP</b>		<b>1</b>			
1, 2, 3	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing		06/02/2008	06/06/2008	EP Baseline Inspection
1, 2, 3	IP 7111403	Emergency Response Organization Augmentation Testing		06/02/2008	06/06/2008	EP Baseline Inspection
1, 2, 3	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		06/02/2008	06/06/2008	EP Baseline Inspection
1, 2, 3	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies		06/02/2008	06/06/2008	EP Baseline Inspection
1, 2, 3	IP 71151-EP01	Drill/Exercise Performance		06/02/2008	06/06/2008	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 71151-EP02	ERO Drill Participation		06/02/2008	06/06/2008	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 71151-EP03	Alert & Notification System		06/02/2008	06/06/2008	Baseline Inspections
	<b>PSB1-RP - RADIATION PROTECTION PUBLIC BASELINE</b>		<b>3</b>			
1, 2, 3	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment		06/02/2008	06/06/2008	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems		06/02/2008	06/06/2008	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program (REMP) And Radioactive Material Control Program		06/02/2008	06/06/2008	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent		06/02/2008	06/06/2008	Baseline Inspections
	<b>TI-171 - B.5.B PHASE 2&amp;3</b>		<b>3</b>			
1, 2, 3	IP 2515/171	Verification of Site Specific Implementation Of B.5.b Phase 2 & 3 Mitigating Strategies		06/16/2008	06/20/2008	Generic Safety Inspectio
	<b>PI&amp;R - PREP TRIP-PROBLEM ID AND RESOL</b>		<b>1</b>			
1, 2, 3	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems		08/18/2008	08/22/2008	Baseline Inspections
	<b>PI&amp;R - PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION &amp; RESOLUTION</b>		<b>6</b>			
1, 2, 3	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems		09/29/2008	10/03/2008	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems		10/13/2008	10/17/2008	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EB3ISI - U1 ISI</b>		<b>1</b>			
1	IP 7111108G	Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR		11/03/2008	11/07/2008	Baseline Inspections
	<b>OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM PREP</b>		<b>3</b>			
1	V23303	BROWNS FERRY/DECEMBER 2008 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES		11/17/2008	11/21/2008	Not Applicable
	<b>OL RQ - REQUAL INSPECTION</b>		<b>2</b>			
1, 2, 3	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program		12/01/2008	12/05/2008	Baseline Inspections
	<b>OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM - WEEK 1</b>		<b>3</b>			
1	V23303	BROWNS FERRY/DECEMBER 2008 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES		12/08/2008	12/12/2008	Not Applicable

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.  
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

**BF**  
**Inspection / Activity Plan**  
**03/01/2008 - 06/30/2009**

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
	<b>OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM - WEEK 2</b>		<b>3</b>			
1	V23303	BROWNS FERRY/DECEMBER 2008 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES		12/15/2008	12/19/2008	Not Applicable
	<b>PSB1-RP - RAD PROTECTION PRE-INSPECTION VISIT</b>		<b>1</b>			
1, 2, 3	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		01/26/2009	01/30/2009	Baseline Inspections
	<b>PSB1-RP - RADIATION PROTECTION OCCUPATIONAL WK1</b>		<b>3</b>			
1, 2, 3	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		03/02/2009	03/06/2009	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		03/02/2009	03/06/2009	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 7112202	Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation		03/02/2009	03/06/2009	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness		03/02/2009	03/06/2009	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent		03/02/2009	03/06/2009	Baseline Inspections
	<b>PSB1-RP - RADIATION PROTECTION OCCUPATIONAL WK2</b>		<b>2</b>			
1, 2, 3	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		03/16/2009	03/20/2009	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		03/16/2009	03/20/2009	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 7112202	Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation		03/16/2009	03/20/2009	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness		03/16/2009	03/20/2009	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent		03/16/2009	03/20/2009	Baseline Inspections
	<b>OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM - PREP</b>		<b>3</b>			
1	V23304	BROWNS FERRY/MAY 2009 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES		04/27/2009	05/01/2009	Not Applicable
	<b>EB3ISI - UNIT 2 ISI</b>		<b>2</b>			
2	IP 7111108G	Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR		05/04/2009	05/08/2009	Baseline Inspections
	<b>OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM - WEEK 1</b>		<b>3</b>			
1	V23304	BROWNS FERRY/MAY 2009 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES		05/11/2009	05/15/2009	Not Applicable
	<b>OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM - WEEK 2</b>		<b>4</b>			
1	V23304	BROWNS FERRY/MAY 2009 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES		05/18/2009	05/22/2009	Not Applicable
	<b>PSB1EP - EP EXERCISE</b>		<b>3</b>			
1, 2, 3	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation		06/08/2009	06/12/2009	EP Baseline Inspection
1, 2, 3	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		06/08/2009	06/12/2009	EP Baseline Inspection
1, 2, 3	IP 71151-EP01	Drill/Exercise Performance		06/08/2009	06/12/2009	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 71151-EP02	ERO Drill Participation		06/08/2009	06/12/2009	Baseline Inspections
1, 2, 3	IP 71151-EP03	Alert & Notification System		06/08/2009	06/12/2009	Baseline Inspections