



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION II  
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET, SW, SUITE 23T85  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931

March 03, 2010

Mr. R. M. Krich  
Vice President, Nuclear Licensing  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
3R Lookout Place  
1101 Market Street  
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER – BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT  
(NRC INSPECTION REPORT 05000259/2010001, 05000260/2010001 AND  
05000296/2010001)

Dear Mr. Krich:

On February 11, 2010, 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, 2009. 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.

Plant performance for Browns Ferry Units 1, 2, and 3 for the most recent quarter was in 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).

A cross-cutting theme in the area of Problem Identification and Resolution was identified for having four findings with the same cross-cutting aspect of "thorough evaluation of identified problems" (P.1.c). All of the findings were of very low safety significance. The NRC evaluated whether a substantive cross-cutting issue (SCCI) existed at the station and concluded that an SCCI would be assigned. The NRC has a concern with your progress in addressing the cross-cutting theme. The NRC confirmed that you have recognized this cross-cutting theme and entered it into your corrective action program. However, the NRC was unable to evaluate your corrective actions because you have yet to develop and schedule specific corrective action plans. In addition, given the large number of operational and equipment issues that occurred during the assessment period, the NRC has an overall concern with your ability to effectively evaluate and resolve these issues before they become more significant. The staff will monitor and follow-up on this SCCI via implementation of the baseline inspection program. The staff will primarily accomplish this in accordance with IP 71152, Identification And Resolution of Problems, to include the Semiannual Trend Review and Selected Issue Follow-up Inspections sections specified in this procedure. The NRC assessment of your progress to clear the SCCI will be based on: 1) An appropriate and comprehensive range of actions identified by the

Corrective Action Program, which will effectively address the cross-cutting theme; 2) Fewer than four findings with the cross-cutting aspect of "thorough evaluation of identified problems" (P.1.c) during the previous twelve month assessment period; and 3) An increased level of confidence in your ability to deal effectively with operational and equipment issues as related to the cross-cutting theme of "thorough evaluation of identified problems" (P.1.c) during the previous six month assessment period.

A cross-cutting theme in the area of Safety Conscious Work Environment (SCWE) was identified based on the December 22, 2009, issuance of a Confirmatory Order for Office of Investigation report numbers 2-2006-025 and 2-2009-003 involving two instances of discrimination. The NRC evaluated whether a substantive cross-cutting issue exists at the station. The NRC does not currently have a concern with your scope of efforts or progress in addressing this theme. The actions set forth in the Confirmatory Order will address the SCWE cross-cutting theme. To ensure the Confirmatory Order actions are being addressed, the NRC will conduct follow up inspections in accordance with IP 92702, Follow up On Traditional Enforcement Actions Including Violations, Deviations, Confirmatory Action Letters, Confirmatory Orders, And Alternative Dispute Resolution Confirmatory Orders. Inspections are scheduled starting in June 2010 and in December of each year until completion in December of 2013. On this basis, the NRC has not classified this as a substantive cross cutting issue.

In addition, three Apparent Violations (AV) were identified during the 2009 Triennial Fire Protection Inspection and documented in a Choice Letter issued on January 20, 2010. Pending the final disposition of these violations, the applicable response column of the Reactor Oversight Process Action Matrix will be reassessed. These issues and any supplemental NRC response will be addressed in a separate assessment letter after the issues have been finalized.

Based on plant performance over the cycle, we plan to conduct the inspections as described above in addition to the reactor oversight process (ROP) baseline inspections at your facility. We also plan on conducting several infrequently performed inspections which include: Temporary Instruction (TI) 2515/173, "Industry Ground Water Protection Initiative," TI 2515/177 "Managing Gas Accumulation In Emergency Core Cooling, Decay Heat Removal & Containment Spray Systems", TI 2515/180 "Inspection of Procedures and Processes for Managing Fatigue" and reactor operator licensing examinations.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to security, scheduled through June 30, 2011. 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 Eugene F. Guthrie at 404-562-4662 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Leonard D. Wert, Jr., Director  
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos.: 50-259, 50-260, 50-296  
License Nos.: DPR-33, DPR-52, DPR-68

Enclosure: Browns Ferry Inspection/Activity Plan (03/01/10 - 06/30/11)

cc w/encl.: (See page 4)

cc w/encl:  
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**Browns Ferry**  
**Inspection / Activity Plan**  
**03/01/2010 - 06/30/2011**

Unit Number	Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
	Start	End			
			<b>EB3ISI - UNIT 3 INSERVICE INSPECTION</b>		<b>1</b>
3	03/08/2010	03/12/2010	IP 7111108G	Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR	
			<b>PSB1-RP - RP ACCESS CONTROLS</b>		<b>1</b>
1, 2, 3	03/22/2010	03/26/2010	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
1, 2, 3	03/22/2010	03/26/2010	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
			<b>PSB1EP - EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS INSPECTION</b>		<b>1</b>
1, 2, 3	05/03/2010	05/07/2010	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Evaluation	
1, 2, 3	05/03/2010	05/07/2010	IP 7111403	Emergency Response Organization Augmentation Testing	
1, 2, 3	05/03/2010	05/07/2010	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	
1, 2, 3	05/03/2010	05/07/2010	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies	
1, 2, 3	05/03/2010	05/07/2010	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
			<b>OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM PREP</b>		<b>7</b>
1	05/17/2010	05/21/2010	V23304	BROWNS FERRY/JULY 2009 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	
			<b>PSB1-RP - RP GROUNDWATER PROTECTION</b>		<b>1</b>
1, 2, 3	05/31/2010	06/04/2010	IP 2515/173	Review of the Implementation of the Industry Ground Water Protection Voluntary Initiative	
			<b>OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM - WEEK 1</b>		<b>7</b>
1	06/07/2010	06/11/2010	V23304	BROWNS FERRY/JULY 2009 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	
			<b>PSB1-RP - RP PUBLIC RADIATION PROTECTION</b>		<b>4</b>
1, 2, 3	06/14/2010	06/18/2010	IP 71124.05	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	
1, 2, 3	06/14/2010	06/18/2010	IP 71124.06	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment	
1, 2, 3	06/14/2010	06/18/2010	IP 71124.07	Public Radiation Safety	
1, 2, 3	06/14/2010	06/18/2010	IP 71124.08	Radioactive Solid Waste Processing and Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, and Transportation	
1, 2, 3	06/14/2010	06/18/2010	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
			<b>OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM - WEEK 2</b>		<b>7</b>
1	06/14/2010	06/25/2010	V23304	BROWNS FERRY/JULY 2009 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	
			<b>ORD INSP - ORDER ISSUE FOLLOW UP ITEMS 1,5,8,9</b>		<b>2</b>
1, 2, 3	06/28/2010	06/30/2010	IP 92702	Followup On Corrective Actions For Violations And Deviations	
			<b>TI-177 - GAS INTRUSION</b>		<b>2</b>
1, 2, 3	08/09/2010	08/13/2010	IP 2515/177	Managing Gas Accumulation In Emergency Core Cooling, Decay Heat Removal & Containment Spray System	
			<b>PI&amp;R - PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION AND RESOLUTION IN</b>		<b>5</b>
1, 2, 3	08/30/2010	09/03/2010	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems	
1, 2, 3	09/20/2010	09/24/2010	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems	
			<b>OL RQ - REQUAL INSPECTION</b>		<b>3</b>
1, 2	10/11/2010	10/15/2010	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program	

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

Enclosure

**Browns Ferry**  
**Inspection / Activity Plan**  
**03/01/2010 - 06/30/2011**

Unit Number	Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
	Start	End			
			<b>EB3ISI - UNIT 1 INSERVICE INSPECTION</b>		<b>1</b>
1	11/01/2010	11/05/2010	IP 7111108G	Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR	
			<b>ORD INSP - ORDER INSPECTION FOLLOW UP ITEMS 6,7,10</b>		<b>2</b>
1, 2, 3	12/06/2010	12/08/2010	IP 92702	Followup On Corrective Actions For Violations And Deviations	
			<b>OL EXAM - INITIAL PREP WEEK</b>		<b>2</b>
1	01/24/2011	01/28/2011	V23344	BROWNS FERRY/FEBRUARY 2011 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	
			<b>EB3HS - HEAT SINK</b>		<b>1</b>
1, 2, 3	02/07/2011	02/11/2011	IP 7111107T	Heat Sink Performance	
			<b>OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM - WEEK 1</b>		<b>2</b>
1	02/07/2011	02/11/2011	V23344	BROWNS FERRY/FEBRUARY 2011 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	
			<b>OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM - WEEK 2</b>		<b>2</b>
1	02/14/2011	02/25/2011	V23344	BROWNS FERRY/FEBRUARY 2011 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	
			<b>PSB1 RP - RP OCCUPATIONAL WEEK1</b>		<b>3</b>
1, 2, 3	02/28/2011	03/04/2011	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
1, 2, 3	02/28/2011	03/04/2011	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
1, 2, 3	02/28/2011	03/04/2011	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
1, 2, 3	02/28/2011	03/04/2011	IP 71124.04	Occupational Dose Assessment	
1, 2, 3	02/28/2011	03/04/2011	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
			<b>EB3ISI - UNIT 2 INSERVICE INSPECTION</b>		<b>1</b>
2	03/14/2011	03/18/2011	IP 7111108G	Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR	
			<b>PSB1-RP - RP OCCUPATIONAL WEEK 2</b>		<b>2</b>
1, 2, 3	03/15/2011	03/19/2011	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
1, 2, 3	03/15/2011	03/19/2011	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
1, 2, 3	03/15/2011	03/19/2011	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
1, 2, 3	03/15/2011	03/19/2011	IP 71124.04	Occupational Dose Assessment	
1, 2, 3	03/15/2011	03/19/2011	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
			<b>MODS - MODIFICATION/50.59 INSPECTION</b>		<b>3</b>
1, 2, 3	04/11/2011	04/15/2011	IP 7111117T	Evaluations of Changes, Tests, or Experiments and Permanent Plant Modifications	
1, 2, 3	04/25/2011	04/29/2011	IP 7111117T	Evaluations of Changes, Tests, or Experiments and Permanent Plant Modifications	
			<b>PSB1EP - EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE</b>		<b>4</b>
1, 2, 3	06/13/2011	06/17/2011	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation	
1, 2, 3	06/13/2011	06/17/2011	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	
1, 2, 3	06/13/2011	06/17/2011	IP 71151-EP01	Drill/Exercise Performance	
1, 2, 3	06/13/2011	06/17/2011	IP 71151-EP02	ERO Drill Participation	
1, 2, 3	06/13/2011	06/17/2011	IP 71151-EP03	Alert & Notification System	

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Enclosure