



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION II
245 PEACHTREE CENTER AVENUE NE, SUITE 1200
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-1257

September 1, 2011

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

**SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE LETTER FOR WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT UNIT 1 (NRC
INSPECTION REPORT 05000390/2011006)**

Dear Mr. Krich:

On August 11, 2011, the NRC completed its mid-cycle performance review of the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant Unit 1. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility. This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter will include the NRC's assessment of your performance in the Security Cornerstone and its security-related inspection plan.

The NRC determined the performance at Watts Bar Nuclear Plant Unit 1 during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix because all inspection findings had very low (i.e., green) safety significance, and all PIs indicated that your performance was within the nominal, expected range (i.e., green). Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct ROP baseline inspections at your facility.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through December 31, 2012. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed during the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle performance review. The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes. We also plan on conducting an initial license exam at your facility in June and October, 2012.

In the days following the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident in Japan, the Commission directed the staff to establish a senior-level agency task force to conduct a methodical and systematic review of the NRC's processes and regulations to determine whether the agency should make additional improvements to its regulatory system. The NRC has since completed Temporary Instruction (TI) 183, "Follow-up to Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Station Fuel Damage Event," and TI-184, "Availability and Readiness Inspection of Severe Accident Management Guidelines (SAMGs)" at your facility. Results of these inspections can be found here:

<http://www.nrc.gov/japan/japan-activities.html>. Additionally, on May 11, 2011, the agency issued NRC Bulletin 2011-01, "Mitigating Strategies," to confirm compliance with Order EA-02-026, subsequently imposed license conditions, and 10 CFR 50.54(hh)(2), and to determine the status of licensee mitigating strategies programs. On July 12, 2011, the NRC's Task Force made its recommendations to the Commission in its report, "Recommendations for Enhancing Reactor Safety in the 21st Century: The Near-Term Task Force Review of Insights from the Fukushima Daiichi Accident." The NRC is currently reviewing the Task Force's recommendations to determine what additional actions may be warranted.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice, a copy of this letter will be 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

Please contact me at 404-997-4521 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Scott M. Shaeffer, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 6
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos.: 50-390
License Nos.: NPF-90

Enclosure: Watts Bar Inspection/Activity Plan

In the days following the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident in Japan, the Commission directed the staff to establish a senior-level agency task force to conduct a methodical and systematic review of the NRC's processes and regulations to determine whether the agency should make additional improvements to its regulatory system. The NRC has since completed Temporary Instruction (TI) 183, "Follow-up to Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Station Fuel Damage Event," and TI-184, "Availability and Readiness Inspection of Severe Accident Management Guidelines (SAMGs)" at your facility. Results of these inspections can be found here:

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PUBLICLY AVAILABLE NON-PUBLICLY AVAILABLE SENSITIVE NON-SENSITIVE
ADAMS: Yes ACCESSION NUMBER: ML112440199 SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE

OFFICE	RII:DRP	RII:DRP					
SIGNATURE	JDH /RA/	SMS /RA/					
NAME	JHamman	SShaeffer					
DATE	08/31/2011	09/01/2011					
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

TVA

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cc w/encl:
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Letter to R. M. Krich from Scott M. Shaeffer dated September 1, 2011

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE LETTER FOR WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT UNIT 1 (NRC
INSPECTION REPORT 05000390/2011006)

Distribution w/encl:

C. Evans, RII

L. Douglas, RII

OE Mail

RIDSNRRDIRS

PUBLIC

RidsNrrPMWattsBar1 Resource

RidsNrrPMWattsBar2 Resource

ROP Assessment

Watts Bar
Inspection / Activity Plan
09/01/2011 - 12/31/2012

Unit Number	Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
	Start	End			
			OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM PREP		5
1	09/19/2011	09/23/2011	V23362	WATTS BAR / OCTOBER 2011 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	
			OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM - WEEK 1		5
1	10/17/2011	10/21/2011	V23362	WATTS BAR / OCTOBER 2011 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	
			PSB1EP - EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE		2
1	10/17/2011	10/21/2011	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation	
1	10/17/2011	10/21/2011	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	
1	10/17/2011	10/21/2011	IP 7111406	Drill Evaluation	
			OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM - WEEK 2		4
1	10/24/2011	10/28/2011	V23362	WATTS BAR / OCTOBER 2011 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	
			TI-177 - TI-177 GAS INTRUSION		3
1	12/12/2011	12/16/2011	IP 2515/177	Managing Gas Accumulation In Emergency Core Cooling, Decay Heat Removal & Containment Spray System	
			CDBI - COMPONENT DESIGN BASES INSPECTION		6
1	01/09/2012	01/13/2012	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection	
1	01/30/2012	02/03/2012	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection	
1	02/13/2012	02/17/2012	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection	
1	02/27/2012	03/02/2012	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection	
			MODS - MODIFICATIONS INSPECTION		3
1	05/21/2012	05/25/2012	IP 7111117T	Evaluations of Changes, Tests, or Experiments and Permanent Plant Modifications	
1	06/04/2012	06/08/2012	IP 7111117T	Evaluations of Changes, Tests, or Experiments and Permanent Plant Modifications	
			EB3 HS - TRIENNIAL HEAT SINK INSPECTION		1
1	06/04/2012	06/08/2012	IP 7111107T	Heat Sink Performance	
			PSB1-RP - PUBLIC RADIATION SAFETY BASELINE		3
1	09/10/2012	09/14/2012	IP 71124.06	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment	
1	09/10/2012	09/14/2012	IP 71124.07	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program	
1	09/10/2012	09/14/2012	IP 71124.08	Radioactive Solid Waste Processing and Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, and Transportation	
1	09/10/2012	09/14/2012	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
			PSB1-RP - RADIOLOGICAL HAZARD ANALYSIS		1
1	09/10/2012	09/14/2012	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
			PI&R - PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION AND RESOLUTION		5
1	10/09/2012	10/12/2012	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	
1	10/22/2012	10/26/2012	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	
			PSB1EP - EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS INSPECTION		1
1	10/15/2012	10/19/2012	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing	

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

Enclosure

Watts Bar
Inspection / Activity Plan
09/01/2011 - 12/31/2012

Unit Number	Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
	Start	End			
PSB1EP - EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS INSPECTION					1
1	10/15/2012	10/19/2012	IP 7111403	Emergency Preparedness Organization Staffing and Augmentation System	
1	10/15/2012	10/19/2012	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	
1	10/15/2012	10/19/2012	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies	
1	10/15/2012	10/19/2012	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
OL RQ - REQUAL INSPECTION					2
1	11/19/2012	11/23/2012	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program	

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This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

Enclosure