



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

August 27, 2003

Tennessee Valley Authority  
ATTN: Mr. J. A. Scalice  
Chief Nuclear Officer and  
Executive Vice President  
6A Lookout Place  
1101 Market Street  
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

**SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN -WATTS BAR  
NUCLEAR PLANT DOCKET NOS. 50-390, 50-391**

Dear Mr. Scalice:

On August 12, 2003, the NRC staff completed its mid-cycle plant performance assessment of the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant. The mid-cycle review for Watts Bar involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the first half of the current assessment cycle, January 1 - December 31, 2003. 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 so that you will have an opportunity to prepare for these inspections and to inform us of any planned inspections that may conflict with your plant activities.

Plant performance for the most recent quarter was 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). Therefore, we plan to conduct only baseline inspections at your facility through September 30, 2004.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections scheduled through September 30, 2004. It includes baseline safety issue inspections to follow-up on industry issues with reactor head penetrations delineated in NRC Bulletin 2002-02, "Reactor Pressure Vessel Head and Vessel Head Penetration Nozzle Inspection Programs," and long term lay up inspections for Watts Bar Unit 2. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for scheduling conflicts and personnel availability to be resolved in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last six months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle review meeting.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 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 the inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact me at 404-562-4520 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

***/RA by S. Shaeffer for/***

Stephen J. Cahill, Chief  
Reactor Projects Branch 6  
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos.: 50-390, 50-391  
License Nos.: NPF-90 and Construction  
Permit No. CPPR-92

Enclosure: Watts Bar Nuclear Plant Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/encl: (See page 3)

TVA

3

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4

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