



NRC NEWS

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NRC ISSUES VIOLATION FOR INSPECTION FINDING OF LOW TO MODERATE SAFETY SIGNIFICANCE AT BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has issued a violation to the Tennessee Valley Authority for an inspection finding at the Browns Ferry nuclear power plant and will increase oversight of units two and three. Browns Ferry Unit One is already subject to increased NRC oversight due to an inspection finding discovered in 2010.

The “white” finding for all three units was based on an NRC inspection that found plant operators and staff would not have been able to satisfactorily perform newly implemented procedures for safe plant shutdown. The NRC identified procedural adherence deficiencies and determined that operators and staff were not adequately trained on the new procedures.

The issue was discussed at a regulatory conference in Atlanta on July 25 where TVA provided the NRC staff additional information on their analysis and corrective actions. After reviewing all the information, the NRC staff decided that the finding should be white. The NRC evaluates nuclear power plants with a color-coded system which classifies findings as green, white, yellow or red in increasing order of safety significance. A white finding has low to moderate safety significance.

The 2010 inspection finding for Unit One was “red,” meaning it has high safety significance. That unit remains under increased NRC oversight due to the red finding.

TVA has informed the NRC that it is reviewing or revising the procedures, instructing operators and establishing a formal process for procedure changes to ensure that operators are appropriately trained. NRC inspectors will conduct a follow-up inspection to verify that the corrective actions have been effective and address the issue.

The three-unit Browns Ferry plant is located near Athens, Ala., about 32 miles west of Huntsville.

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