



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

March 1, 2019

Mr. B. Joel Burch
Vice President and General Manager
BWXT Nuclear Operations Group, Inc.
P.O. Box 785
Lynchburg, VA 24505-0785

SUBJECT: BWXT NUCLEAR OPERATIONS GROUP, LICENSEE PERFORMANCE REVIEW
OF LICENSED ACTIVITIES (NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
INSPECTION REPORT 70-27/2019-001)

Dear Mr. Burch:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff in the Region II office, the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, and the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response completed a periodic review of the BWXT Nuclear Operations Group, Inc. (NOG) facility performance in conducting NRC-licensed activities. The performance of BWXT NOG was evaluated in the following areas: Safety Operations, Radiological Controls, Facility Support, Safeguards and Other Areas.

During the 2018 Program Adjustment Review, which covered the period January 1 through December 31, 2017, the NRC determined that an adjustment to the inspection program was warranted in the Safety Operations area (inspection report 70-27/2018-001, ADAMS Accession No. ML18067A146). This inspection program adjustment was completed through a supplemental inspection conducted in December 2018, and documented in inspection report 70-27/2018-005 (ML19030A138). The supplemental inspection focused on corrective actions associated with the unidentified accumulation of material in a glovebox ventilation desiccant purification system. The results of the supplemental inspection identified that corrective actions directly associated with the cause of this event have been completed. During the CY 2018 supplemental inspection, there were no new issues identified that were related to the Performance Adjustment Review. Additional long-term programmatic corrective action commitments made by BWXT will be tracked and inspected as part of the core baseline inspections during CY 2019.

Overall, the staff determined that BWXT NOG has continued to conduct activities safely and securely, and in a manner that protects public health and the environment. Based on our review of activities, no area needing improvement was identified for the areas of Safety Operations, Radiological Controls, Facility Support, and Other Areas. Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct the core inspection program for a Category I Fuel Facility as described in NRC Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 2600, Appendix B, "NRC Core Inspection Requirements Table 1," for the period of January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020.

The results of our review will be discussed with you at a public meeting on April 30th, 2019, which will be conducted via an on-line webinar. During the meeting, we request that you be prepared to discuss your performance in the same major areas as those evaluated by the NRC.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice and Procedure," 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 refer questions and comments regarding your licensee performance review to Mr. Eric Michel, Chief, Projects Branch 2, by telephone at 404-997-4555.

Sincerely,

/RA/

LaDonna Suggs, Director
Division of Fuel Facility Inspection

Docket No. 70-27
License No. SNM-42

cc: (See page 3)

cc:

Joel Duling
Chief Operating Officer
BWXT Nuclear Operations Group, Inc.
2016 Mount Athos Road
Lynchburg, VA 24505

Christopher T. Terry, Manager
Licensing and Safety Analysis
BWXT Nuclear Operations Group, Inc.
P.O. Box 785
Lynchburg, VA 24505-0785

Steve Harrison, Director
Division of Radiological Health
Department of Health
109 Governor Street, Room 730
Richmond, VA 23219

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ADAMS: ☒ Yes ACCESSION NUMBER: **_ML 19060A148** ☒ SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE ☐ FORM 665 ATTACHED

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