

August 8, 2012
EN 12-032

OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT
NOTIFICATION OF SIGNIFICANT ENFORCEMENT ACTION

Licensee: Tennessee Valley Authority EA-12-133
Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Unit 1, 2, and 3
Docket No. 50-259, 260, 296

Subject: ISSUANCE OF FINAL SIGNIFICANCE DETERMINATION AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

This is to inform the Commission that a Notice of Violation will be issued on or about August 13, 2012, to Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) for a violation associated with a White Significance Determination Process finding identified during an inspection of Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Units 1, 2, and 3. This White finding, an issue of low to moderate safety significance, will require additional U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) inspections. It involves the failure of Browns Ferry personnel to accomplish the requirements contained in procedure NPG-SPP-09.3 "Plant Modifications and Engineering Change Control," which required that an evaluation of training needs be completed to support implementation of Design Change Notice (DCN) 69957, which installed a new three-hour fire barrier in the Intake Tunnel Structure. Specifically, on September 13, 2011, the licensee issued several "Safe Shutdown Instructions (SSIs)" in support of DCN 69957 without performing an evaluation of training needs. As a result, the SSIs could not be satisfactorily performed by plant operators and staff.

The Notice of Violation is based on the TVA's failure to accomplish an activity affecting quality (DCN 69957) in accordance with documented procedures, as required by 10 CFR 50, Appendix B, Criterion V, "Instructions, Procedures, and Drawings". The significance of the finding was determined using the qualitative process described in IMC 0609 Appendix M, "Significance Determination Process Using Qualitative Criteria."

In response to the preliminary determination letter, TVA attended a Regulatory Conference and provided information on their causal analysis and detailed corrective actions. After reviewing the information developed during the inspection and the information provided by TVA, the staff concluded that the inspection finding is appropriately characterized as White. TVA has informed the NRC that multiple corrective actions are in place and/or planned. Their corrective actions include, in part: (1) reviewing and revising the SSIs; (2) instructing all licensed operators on the implementation of the SSIs and, (3) establishing a requirement to perform a formal training needs analysis for each DCN that affects or changes operator actions for any plant system or process.

It should be noted that the licensee has not been specifically informed of the enforcement action. The schedule of issuance and notification is:

Mailing of Final Significance Determination	August 13, 2012
Telephone Notification of Licensee	August 13, 2012

The State of Alabama will be notified.

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Distribution: EN-12-032, August 8, 2012

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