Memorandum from the Office of the Inspector General

November 9, 2026

Joseph Quinn

FINAL REPORT – EVALUATION 2026-17635 – NUCLEAR SUMMER READINESS

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) operates three nuclear plants capable of generating an average of 8,600 megawatts of electricity. Nuclear power plants can provide a continuous and reliable supply of energy because they operate at full capacity, nearly uninterrupted. Nuclear Power Group (NPG) Standard Programs and Processes (SPP) 07.1.7, *Station Seasonal Readiness,* specifies the roles, responsibilities, and programmatic controls for seasonal readiness to ensure reliable operation during summer and winter periods. A Station Seasonal Readiness Letter is required to be sent from each site to the Chief of Nuclear Operations to certify the plant will be ready for safe and reliable operation for the season.

Due to the importance of ensuring reliable generation during peak summer demand, we scheduled an evaluation of the TVA Nuclear Station Seasonal Readiness program. The objective of our evaluation was to determine if TVA Nuclear had completed warm-weather plans in accordance with the Station Seasonal Readiness program.

We determined all three nuclear sites completed warm-weather plans in accordance with the Station Seasonal Readiness program. Specifically, Station Seasonal Readiness Letters were completed as required to certify the plants would be ready for reliable operation for the 2026 summer season. However, the documents used to track milestone completion needed for seasonal readiness were not always retained as required.

We made a recommendation to Vice President, Fleet Support, to take steps to ensure Milestone Closure Documents are retained as required. In response to our draft report, TVA management agreed with our recommendation and provided actions taken that addressed the recommendation. See the Appendix for TVA's complete response.

BACKGROUND

NPG-SPP-07.1.7 specifies the roles, responsibilities, and programmatic controls for seasonal readiness to ensure reliable operation during summer and winter periods. The procedure defines the summer period as between May 25 and September 1 and applies to work activities that affect, or have the potential to affect, a plant component, system, or unit configuration during summer and winter periods.

In addition, the procedure outlines work management milestones for seasonal readiness that have been established to provide guidance and clear roles for seasonal readiness preparation. Each milestone has a specific document used by each site to track milestone

closure. The Milestone Closure Document requires three signatures for completion: (1) the person who performed the action, (2) independent review of the action, and (3) a manager closure approval signature.

One of the final milestones is the Station Seasonal Readiness Letter required to be sent from each site to the Chief of Nuclear Operations to certify the plant will be ready for safe and reliable operation for the season. The Station Seasonal Readiness Letter documents seasonal readiness work is complete for each site. The eleven sections included in the Station Seasonal Readiness Letter are:

- System Readiness.
- Switchyard, Transformer, and Generator Readiness.
- Heat Removal and Intake System Components.
- Site-Specific Issues or Concerns.
- Contingency Work Packages.
- Major Component Work Windows.
- Critical Spare Inventory.
- Readiness Items not scheduled for completion prior to seasonal period.
- Planned Load Drops greater than 20 Megawatt Electrical during the seasonal period.
- Operational Risk Activities during seasonal period.
- High-risk, watch-list Items during seasonal period.

Due to the importance of ensuring reliable generation during peak summer demand, we scheduled an evaluation of the TVA Nuclear Station Seasonal Readiness program.

OBJECTIVE, SCOPE, AND METHODOLOGY

The objective of our evaluation was to determine if TVA Nuclear had completed warm-weather plans in accordance with the Station Seasonal Readiness program. The scope of our evaluation included fiscal year 2026 warm-weather plans for TVA's three nuclear plants. To achieve our objective, we reviewed:

- NPG-SPP-07.1.7, *Station Seasonal Readiness*, to identify requirements for summer readiness.
- Milestone Closure Documents[1] to determine if actions taken to address Summer Readiness Milestones met milestone requirements.

[1] Two of the fourteen Milestone Closure Documents (Seasonal Equipment Issues and Seasonal Readiness Critique) were not available for review as they are either not required or not due for completion until October 2026.

- Station Seasonal Readiness Letters (summer only) for each of the three nuclear plants to determine if they were completed and submitted to the Chief of Nuclear Operations as required.
- Elements from the Station Seasonal Readiness Letters to determine if they were completed. To determine if select elements were completed, we:
  - Haphazardly selected 8 of 57 condition reports to determine if site specific issues[2] and lessons learned were addressed;
  - Conducted site visits to verify a haphazard selection of 6 of 136[3] identified critical spares were in site inventory.

This evaluation was conducted in accordance with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency's *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation*.

FINDING

We determined all three nuclear sites completed warm-weather plans in accordance with the Station Seasonal Readiness program. Specifically, Station Seasonal Readiness Letters were completed as required to certify the plants would be ready for reliable operation for the 2026 summer season. However, the documents used to track milestone completion needed for seasonal readiness were not always retained as required.

MILESTONE CLOSURE DOCUMENTS

We found not all Milestone Closure Documents were maintained as required. According to NPG-SPP-07.1.7, milestone closure documentation should be retained in a hard-copy or electronic format for 6 months after completion of all milestones. The procedure includes Milestone Closure Documents the sites are required to use to track milestone completion. Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant personnel provided Milestone Closure Documents for all 12 milestone closures. However, Sequoyah Nuclear Plant personnel did not retain any of the required Milestone Closure Documents, and Watts Bar Nuclear Plant personnel could not provide the documents for 3 of the 12 milestones we requested. While these two sites did not retain the closure documents for all milestones, we determined the milestone activities were completed based on the information included in other documentation.

RECOMMENDATION

We recommend the Vice President, Fleet Support, take steps to ensure Milestone Closure Documents are retained as required.

TVA Management's Comments – TVA revised NPG-SPP-07.1.7 to formally adopt a single electronic spreadsheet as the official method of milestone documentation and

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[2] Site-specific issues could include any issues related to seasonal preparations such as engineering reviews, current equipment issues, or emergent activities.

[3] Two critical spares were selected for observation at each of the three TVA nuclear sites. The selected population only included critical spares that were available at each site during our site visits.

retention, eliminating the requirement to maintain separate milestone closure forms. See the Appendix for TVA management's complete response.

Auditor's Response – We agree with TVA management's action taken.

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This report is for your review and information. No response to this report is necessary.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Lindsay J. Denny, Director, Evaluations – Operations at (865) 633-7349. We appreciate the courtesy and cooperation received from your staff during the audit.

Greg Stinson
Assistant Inspector General
(Audits and Evaluations)

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OIG File No. 2026-17635

November 2, 2026

Greg Stinson, WT 2C-K

RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR COMMENTS - Evaluation 2026-17635 - Nuclear Summer Readiness

This letter is in response to the Draft Evaluation 2026-17635 - Nuclear Summer Readiness TVA Nuclear, Fleet Support appreciate Samuel L. Ruble and Lindsay J. Denny and the Office of Inspector General's thorough evaluation of the Nuclear Summer Readiness.

Recommendations:

1. **We recommend the Vice President, Fleet Support, take steps to ensure Milestone Closure Documents are retained as required.**

   Response: Agree

   TVA has already taken corrective action by aligning on the method of milestone documentation and retention. TVA has revised NPG-SPP-07.1.7 to formally adopt a single electronic spreadsheet as the official method of milestone documentation and retention, eliminating the requirement to maintain separate milestone closure forms. Specifically, Section 4.2 reflects that the spreadsheet constitutes the official retained record for the 6-month period. This was completed on 9/30/2026. See attached procedure as evidence to close this recommendation.

Joseph Quinn
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TVA Nuclear
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