



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET, SW, SUITE 23T85
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-3415

September 4, 1998

Tennessee Valley Authority
ATTN: Mr. Richard T. Purcell
Site Vice President - Watts Bar Plant
P.O. Box 2000
Spring City, TN 37381-2000

SUBJECT: INTIMIDATION OF TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY (TVA) EMPLOYEE

Dear Mr. Purcell:

On August 28, 1998, TVA's licensing manager informed the NRC Senior Resident Inspector of an incident involving a TVA employee who received a threatening note via internal TVA mail on August 27, 1998. Although we are not aware of all the facts associated with this incident, the threatening note may have been sent in response to concerns the employee has raised.

The NRC considers retaliation for individuals who raise safety concerns a serious matter, particularly given its potential negative impact on the willingness of employees to freely raise safety concerns at TVA in the future.

We understand that TVA initiated a number of actions in response to the incident. These actions included, 1) immediate notification of the TVA Inspector General, Employee Concerns staff and your Office of General Counsel; 2) initiation of an investigation by the Inspector General; 3) an August 28, 1998, meeting to discuss the significance of the incident and to determine the actions to be taken in response and 4) your issuance of an August 28, 1998, memorandum to site management which discussed TVA's policy of zero tolerance for intimidation in the workplace, and directed management to convey this policy to site employees and to advise you in writing of the manner by which employees were advised of the policy.

We acknowledge the prompt actions you have taken in response to this incident. Please keep us advised of any developments in this case including the outcome of your investigative efforts. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Mrs. Anne T. Boland, Director, Enforcement and Investigations Coordination Staff at (404) 562-4421.

Sincerely,

Jon R. Johnson
for Luis A. Reyes
Regional Administrator

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Sincerely,

Luis A. Reyes
 Regional Administrator

Distribution:
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*See previous concurrence

OFFICE	RII:RC*	RII:EICS*	RII:DRP*	RII:DRS*	RII:DR		
SIGNATURE	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>		
NAME	CEvans	ABoland	LPlisco	BMallett	JJohnson		
DATE	9/ /98	9/ /98	9/ /98	9/ /98	9/ 4 /98	9/ /98	9/ /98
COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO				

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Sincerely,

Luis A. Reyes
 Regional Administrator

discussed w/ Baker/NEC on 09/03/98

OFFICE	R11:RC	R11:RCS	R11:DRP	R11:DRS	R11:DRA		
SIGNATURE	<i>CE</i>	<i>AB</i>	<i>LP</i>	<i>BS</i>			
NAME	CEvans	ABoland	LPlisco	BMallett	JJohnson		
DATE	9/3/98	9/4/98	9/4/98	9/3/98	9/ /98	9/ /98	9/ /98
COPY?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

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