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Rules and Directives  
Branch  
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Chief, Rules and Directives Branch  
Division of Administration Services  
Office of Administration  
U.S. NRC  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: Proposed new rules to allow manual shut-down of nuclear reactors in case of fire, rather than installing previously required safety barriers.

It is my understanding that utilities have been relying on "operator actions" to shutdown reactors in case of fire, rather than removing Thermo-Lag and establishing new fire barrier systems as previously required. It is outrageous that the NRC should simply abandon an important requirement in the face of the utilities' failure to meet it. The Browns Ferry incident gives ample evidence of the significance of this danger. The NRC is a regulatory agency, and should regulate.

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