



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION**  
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September 3, 1997

Bob Martin  
Mail Stop O14B21  
US NRC  
Washington, DC 20555

  
Dear Mr. Martin:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Federal Register notice of June 4, 1997. This notice concerns the TVA/DOE Lead Test Assembly Project. In my letter of May 30, 1997, to Mark Lesser I expressed my concern about the introduction of DOE manufactured components into the reactor core without adequate assessment of their worthiness. I noted that it cannot be assumed that these items will meet commercial nuclear standards.

In your letter of August 7, 1997, you state in response to this concern that this would be part of the NRC's ongoing review. This issue is still of great concern to the State of Tennessee. Our concern is heightened by the apparent speed with which the manufacturer of the Lead Test Assemblies received approval as a manufacturer of safety related equipment. It was our understanding that this was an arduous process. Has the manufacturer actually been approved? How often has this level of approval has been granted on such a short time line?

Sincerely,



Michael H. Mobley  
Director

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