TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37401

400 Chestnut Street Tower II

July 14, 1981



Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Denton:

In the Matter of the Application of) Docket Nos. 50-327 Tennessee Valley Authority) 50-328 50-390 50-391

By a letter dated June 1, 1981 from R. L. Tedesco to H. G. Parris, TVA was requested to participate in an NRC Office of Research Project concerning conceptual designs for mitigation of the effects of potential core melt accidents.

During informal discussion with EG&G Idaho, Inc., TVA was informed that the proposed project would involve two main phases including a risk study to identify the need for a core catcher and a conceptual design for a core catcher in the event a need may be indicated. In the referenced letter of June 1, 1981, the NRC appears to presuppose the need for core melt mitigation and implies a study of mitigation effects such as filtered vented containment, core catcher, etc. In view of this apparent inconsistency, we request that you provide us with the following information:

- 1. The scope of the project;
- 2. The duration of the project;
- 3. The expected manpower requirement of TVA.

TVA also requests that the NRC clarify the usage of the results of this project. For example, might TVA be required to make a parallel study to confirm or dispute the EG&G work with respect to such things as cost/benefit (risk reduction) if that is in the scope of the study?

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July 14, 1981

While TVA is pleased to be in a position to assist in this project, we would appreciate additional information in order to assess the TVA manpower and resources which would be required, to avoid any misunderstanding with respect to the purpose and scope of TVA's involvement, and to minimize future licensing problems.

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

L. M. Mills, Manager

Nuclear Regulation and Safety

Sworn to and subscribed before me this /// day of low 1981

Notary Public

My Commission Expires 9-5-84