

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37401

5N 157B Lookout Place

JUN 27 1986

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

Dear Mr. Denton:

INFORMATION REGARDING TVA EMPLOYEE CONCERN PROGRAMS

Your letter dated September 26, 1985, requested copies of investigation reports and related documents dealing with potentially safety-related employee concerns at TVA's nuclear plants. TVA responded to this request in a letter to you dated October 7, 1985 and have been submitting the requested information to NRC since that time.

In November 1985, TVA began discussing changes in our methods for handling employee concerns with members of your staff. These changes were implemented in February 1986 and resulted in TVA having two employee concerns-related programs.

The first program, referred to as the Employee Concern Special Program (ECSP), is being executed by the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant Employee Concerns Task Group (ECTG). The ECTG is responsible for evaluating and resolving employee concerns received before February 1, 1986, through Quality Technology Company (QTC); TVA Nuclear Safety Review Staff; TVA's ECP which was in effect from April 1985 through February 1, 1986; and NRC (allegations forwarded to TVA for evaluation and resolution).

The second program, referred to as the TVA Employee Concern Program (ECP) (or "new" ECP) was implemented on February 1, 1986 and is responsible for evaluation and resolution of employee concerns received since that date.

One of the effects of the changes in TVA's handling of employee concerns was that information submittals as previously structured were no longer appropriate. The last submittal of this information was on May 9, 1986 and no changes to this information have occurred since that time.

In the meeting between NRC Senior Management and TVA Senior Management held in the U.S. NRC offices in Bethesda, Maryland, on May 12, 1986, the topic of information to be provided to NRC related to the two TVA ECPs was discussed. At that time, TVA committed to two actions:

- For the Watts Bar ECSP, identify for NRC the information which TVA proposes to provide to them.
- For the "new" ECP, provide NRC with a synopsis of each concern (similar in content to the information previously provided to NRC by QTC) and a closeout summary sheet for each month.

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For the Watts Bar ECSP, TVA proposes to provide the following to NRC:

- Program Description and Implementing Procedures--These are undergoing revision to reflect recent program changes and will be provided by mid-July 1986.
- Subcategory Evaluation Reports approved by the ECTG and issued to line management for corrective action--to be provided as issued.
- Subcategory Evaluation Reports when finalized (corrective action proposed by line management and concurred with by the ECTG)--to be provided as issued.
- Category Evaluation Reports--to be provided as issued.
- Final ECTG Report--to be provided when issued.

As we discussed in the May 12, 1986 meeting in order to promote further communication in these matters, we encouraged your staff to visit the "new" ECP Site Representatives to review our files, look at our procedures, and make recommendations and comments on these. For the Watts Bar ECSP, we also encouraged you to attend our Senior Review Panel meetings and to also have your technical staff come to Watts Bar and meet with the task group personnel and review our programs with regard to the way they are proceeding.

Based on the above, we plan to: discontinue our weekly submittals that started under the QTC/NSRS program; begin by late June to make monthly submittals for the "new" ECP as described above; and submit the Watts Bar ECSP procedures and reports described above as they are generated.

If you have any questions or require further information in this matter, please telephone R. F. Campbell at FTS 858-4892.

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY



R. L. Gridley, Director
Nuclear Safety and Licensing

Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director

JUN 27 1986

cc: Mr. James M. Taylor, Director
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