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6N 38A Lookout Place

May 13, 1986

The Honorable Nunzio J. Palladino, Chairman
The Honorable James K. Asselstine
The Honorable Frederick M. Bernthal
The Honorable Thomas H. Roberts
The Honorable Lando W. Zech, Jr.
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Gentlemen:

I am in receipt of a copy of Lynne Bernabei's April 10 letter to you concerning my testimony before the NRC on March 11, 1986. I have read and agree with Herbert S. Sanger, Jr.'s (TVA's General Counsel) comments on Ms. Bernabei's letter contained in his letter to you dated May 12. However, since Ms. Bernabei made a number of statements involving me personally, I consider it appropriate that I provide you with my own brief comments.

Her basic contention is that I misled the Commission with regard to TVA's handling and investigation of the charges of intimidation and harassment by four of her clients.

I have again reviewed the transcript of the March 11 Commission hearing during which this subject was discussed and upon which Ms. Bernabei apparently bases her accusations. I reaffirm the statements I made at that hearing and can find nothing in them which support the insinuated conclusions she has reached.

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

S. A. White
Manager of Nuclear Power

SAW:SCJ

cc: RIMS, NR 4N 72A-C
K. E. Gray, Washington
R. L. Gridley, LP 5N 157B-C
H. S. Sanger, E11 B33 C-K
W. F. Willis, E12 B16 C-K (4)

East Tennessee

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Nuke whistle-blowing sets off chain reaction

By REBECCA FERRAR
 News-Sentinel staff writer

TVA employees who blow the whistle on nuclear safety problems don't get the hero treatment.

Although they are potentially making nuclear plants safer, their bosses don't like them and neither do many of their co-workers.

Often it takes years to resolve the cases, resulting in six-figure legal fees.

Plenty of the whistle-blowers have been laid off or fired, and some who left TVA say they have been blackballed in the closely knit nuclear power industry.

Its top nuclear managers acknowledge that TVA's "culture"

is intolerant of employees who point fingers at problems, but they say they are working to change attitudes.

The stress, however, takes its toll: Many whistle-blowers wind up under psychiatric care.

In one case, a whistle-blower was hospitalized for months for depression. Another took to carrying a gun because he believed his life was in danger. Still another was reluctant to discuss his experience in detail for fear of discouraging would-be whistle-blowers.

"The emotional toll is the greatest. I'm ostracized by the managers and the employees. I'm constantly watched. I have very few friends," said Ann Harris, a

“A lot of whistle-blowers end up in bankruptcy because TVA strings these actions out even though they know they can't win.”

Ann Harris, a TVA manager

At the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant near Spring City, Tenn.

manager at TVA's Watts Bar Nuclear Plant near Spring City. "Most people stay away from me because they don't want to be seen in my company. Frankly, it's not healthy for them."

Harris, a coordinator in document control and records management at Watts Bar, became a whistle-blower when she began

reporting safety problems in 1987. She considers herself lucky to have a job, but has financial burdens.

"We have to borrow money," Harris said. "A lot of whistle-blowers end up in bankruptcy because TVA strings these actions out even though they know they can't win."

Andrew Bartlik, a contractor fired by TVA after he raised fire safety concerns at the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant in 1987, was out more than \$40,000 in legal fees. A judge awarded his lawyer \$125,000 although TVA may appeal the ruling.

Bartlik, who now works for a New York nuclear utility, said, "TVA attempted to stop me from getting future work."

Lynne Bernabei, a Washington lawyer who handles many whistle-blower cases, has represented about 40 TVA employees, including Bartlik.

"Some whistle-blowers may give up," Bernabei said. "They may not have the resources. They

can't continue to go on. TVA runs you out. In the meantime, they're blackballed in the industry. You could be out of work for years before you get a favorable decision."

TVA nuclear chief Oliver Kingsley Jr. says he is taking action to make sure whistle-blowers are not harassed.

"I think we're better than we were two to three years ago," Kingsley said. "We're doing a very, very good job of investigating safety concerns that are identified. We still need to make improvements in management and personnel issues. We're working

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DOE official's letter details woes seen at Martin Marietta

Some of criticism

addressing these problems." La Grone also criticized "improper storage" of waste at the