



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

November 18, 1991

The Honorable Steve Symms
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-6200

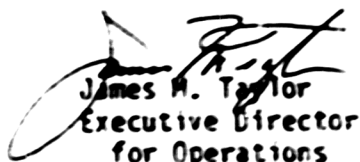
Dear Senator Symms:

I am responding to your letter of October 15, 1991, concerning the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's involvement and information regarding Mr. Howard Spaletta. Mr. Spaletta's concerns pertain to a report generated by EG&G Idaho for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) under a Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) contract.

The NRC staff has reviewed the subject report (Weld Evaluation Project (WEP) Report for Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 1, of February 17, 1988), and has documented detailed review results in a letter of August 12, 1988 (Enclosure 1). The NRC staff also reviewed the concerns raised by Mr. Spaletta and prepared an Allegation Evaluation that was forwarded to Mr. Spaletta by letter dated July 10, 1989. A copy of the evaluation is enclosed (Enclosure 2). In general, the NRC staff agreed with the concerns raised by Mr. Spaletta, because the same observations were made during the staff's review of the WEP report. These issues were discussed in a meeting with the TVA on October 11, 1988 (summary dated February 9, 1989 is Enclosure 3). TVA is preparing a final report on welding issues, including a response to the concerns raised in the NRC's August 12, 1988 letter and October 11, 1988 meeting. This report, when issued by TVA, will be available in the NRC Public Document Room and will be reviewed by the staff. We will provide Mr. Spaletta with a copy of the report and our evaluation.

On July 29, 1991, the NRC Office of Investigations (OI) personnel met with Mr. Spaletta in Idaho Falls. The staff will contact Mr. Spaletta regarding status of this action when it is complete.

Sincerely,


James M. Taylor
Executive Director
for Operations

Enclosures:

1. Letter dated August 12, 1988
2. Allegation Evaluation
3. Meeting Summary of October 11, 1988

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