



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-001

Sept. 24, 2010

Walston Chubb
4953 Cline Hollow Road, #244
Murrysville, PA 15668-1591

Mr. Chubb;

Thank you for your letter to Chairman Jaczko.

The NRC has a successful 35-year history of ensuring public health and safety while overseeing the operation of commercial nuclear power plants that today include 104 reactors, accounting for 20 percent of U.S. electricity generation. The NRC's 4,000 employees include experts in many scientific and engineering disciplines; many NRC staff joined the agency after working in the nuclear industry.

The partial meltdown at Three Mile Island in 1979, which rendered Unit 2 permanently unusable, underscored the importance of NRC requirements for: a) robust safety systems to continue cooling the reactor core for days after the chain reaction is halted by control rods, and b) containment structures to contain radioactive material and prevent harm to nearby populations. The 2002 reactor head corrosion incident at the Davis-Besse plant in Ohio demonstrates the need for strict inspection and maintenance requirements, backed up by vigilant NRC oversight.

Approximately half of the U.S. commercial nuclear fleet was licensed and came into operation after the 1979 Three Mile Island accident; the last plant to begin operating was Tennessee's Watts Bar Unit 1 reactor, in 1996. The Tennessee Valley Authority is currently completing Watts Bar Unit 2, using a valid construction permit the TVA maintained after Unit 1 started up. The NRC is currently reviewing 13 applications for 21 new U.S. reactors; site preparation activities are already underway at the under-review Vogtle site in Georgia.

I've included the latest edition of the NRC's Information Digest, as well as brochures regarding the Three Mile Island accident and the Davis-Besse incident, for your information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Burnell", written in a cursive style.

Scott Burnell
Public Affairs Officer

Encl: 2010-2011 Information Digest
Brochures