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The Honorable Lando W. Zech, Jr.  
Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Zech:

SUBJECT: NRC STAFF'S TVA LESSONS LEARNED EFFORT

During the 341st meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, September 8-10, 1988, we met with members of the NRC staff and reviewed the staff's TVA lessons learned effort. Our subcommittee on TVA Organizational Issues also discussed this matter with the staff during its meeting on July 22, 1988. During our review, we had the benefit of the documents referenced.

We believe that the final lessons learned recommendations appear to be well thought-out and responsive to the problems which were experienced at TVA. An important task ahead is to complete the implementation of the philosophy embodied in these recommendations. However, in doing so, the NRC should not dictate the management organization and style of a utility and should avoid prescriptive and detailed regulations or evaluation of utility management, methods, and structures. The NRC should observe and monitor the performance of licensees and assess their capability for continued safe operation of their nuclear power plants, and should communicate its concerns to the appropriate level of utility management on a timely basis.

Sincerely,

William Kerr  
Chairman

References:

1. SECY-86-334, Memorandum dated November 12, 1986 for the Commissioners from V. Stello, Executive Director for Operations, NRC, Subject: TVA Preliminary Lessons Learned
2. SECY-87-211, Memorandum dated August 20, 1987 for the Commissioners from V. Stello, Executive Director for Operations, NRC, Subject: Final Report on TVA Lessons Learned (Includes comments from former TVA and NRC managers on SECY-86-334)

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