TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

CHATTANOOGA. TENNESSEE 37401 400 Chestnut Street Tower II

November 9, 1979

Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation Attention: Mr. Thomas A. Ippolito, Chief Branch No. 3 Division of Operating Reactors U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Ippolito:

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is actively developing a reload design and safety analysis capability with our overall program plans described in a February 20, 1979, letter from J. E. Gilleland to Karl Kniel. An essential part of this development is the reactor system transient analysis code, RETRAN, which has been developed under the sponsorship of the Electric Power Research Institute. Since the RETRAN code could be used in preparing reload safety analysis, we request a timely generic review. TVA has joined with other utilities in requesting this generic review by an October 22, 1979, letter from Stanley Ragone, President of Virginia Electric and Power Company, to Robert Baer. As a member of this utility group, TVA will pay a proportionate share of the review fee for the RETRAN code.

TVA intends to use the RETRAN code to obtain a better understanding of reactor transients, support operator training programs, and to perform plant specific analyses to supplement vendor-performed generic analyses. TVA plans on using RETRAN for Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant's reload licensing analysis in 1982 and in 1981 will submit a topical report qualifying our use of RETRAN for boiling water reactors.

We would be pleased to discuss these plans in more detail with you in the interest of expediting the RETRAN review process.

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

L. M. Mills, Manager Nuclear Regulation and Safety

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