

MARILYN LLOYD BOUQUARD
3D DISTRICT, TENNESSEE

COMMITTEES:
PUBLIC WORKS
AND TRANSPORTATION
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING

DOCKET NUMBER

PROD. & UTIL. FAC. 50-322,328

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

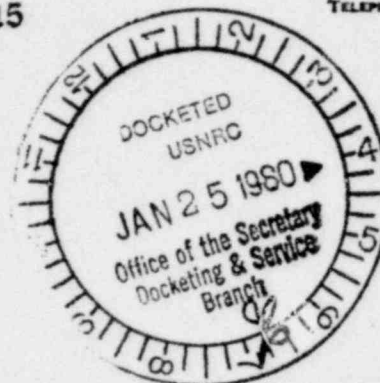
208 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-3271

230 POST OFFICE BUILDING
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37401
TELEPHONE: (615) 756-4250

1211 FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING
OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE 37830
TELEPHONE: (615) 576-1977

January 15, 1980

Mr. John F. Ahearne/Chairman
United States Nuclear Regulatory
Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555



Dear Chairman Ahearne:

I appreciate your response to the request made by Tennessee Valley Authority Board Chairman David Freeman for a permit to begin loading fuel for specialized testing at the Sequoyah Plant. Your attention to this request is appreciated.

However, there are two points in your reply which cause me considerable alarm. The first of which is the explanation that "...only limited resources will be available for reviews associated with issuing new operating licenses." In light of the increases voted by the Congress in funding for the NRC, specifically the addition of 100 staff positions with the requirement that these positions be used to prevent any delay in the consideration of existing permit applications, I am curious as to why this reason is offered as an explanation for the delay. My second concern centers on a less well-defined issue, that of the Commission's self-imposed moratorium on consideration of applications for permits. The Congress, both House and Senate, has overwhelmingly defeated statutory attempts to impose a moratorium. In fact, in the dialogue between Mr. Udall and Mr. Brown of Ohio, they make clear the intent of the Congress to proceed with licensing of plants, in particular issuing operating licenses.

Finally, the ACRS report should be considered as the controlling document in this entire discussion of reactor safety. Given that endorsement, given the supplemental findings of the National Academy of Science, it becomes doubtful whether the NRC could identify any generic safety issues which have not already been addressed.

I would again urge, in the strongest terms, that TVA's request be promptly approved.

With best regards.

Sincerely,

MARILYN LLOYD BOUQUARD
Member of Congress

MLB/ks

3002200 229