

OCT 18 1977

return to PA

bcc: SECY (3) 77-1563
CA

The Honorable J. Bennett Johnston
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

50-313

Dear Senator Johnston:

We have been asked to reply to your October 4 communication forwarding a copy of Mr. Jerry Burnham's September 27 letter to you; we appreciate having the opportunity to comment on it.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission does require utility operators of nuclear power plants to develop and implement stringent physical security plans--primarily to prevent acts of sabotage which could cause releases of radioactivity to the environment. We are enclosing a copy of a public announcement which describes our physical security requirements in more detail.

While our physical security requirements do not preclude visits to nuclear power facilities, because of circumstances involved in the actual implementation of these requirements--in addition to the necessity to withhold the details of individual plans from public disclosure--many utilities have found that it is impractical to conduct public tours of their facilities.

In some cases utilities have established visitors' centers near their nuclear power facilities to provide the educational opportunities described in Mr. Burnham's letter. However, we understand that Arkansas Power and Light Company does not have such a facility.

We hope that this information will be helpful in responding to Mr. Burnham's letter; however, if you need additional information, please let us know. In the meantime, as you requested, we are returning your correspondence.

Sincerely,

/s/

Joseph J. Fouchard
Acting Director
Office of Public Affairs

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