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COMMITTEECN ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

MAR 10 P5:02

Februar 17. 1982

The Honorable Munzio J. Palladino Chairman Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Commission has received a request from the Secretary of Energy to begin preliminary siting work relative to the Clinch River Breeder Reactor Project. This facility is a vital element of the government's research and development program relating to the liquid metal fast breeder reactor.

As you may know, the Conferees' language on the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1982 (P.L. 97-35) states that Congress wants this project to "be constructed in a timely and expeditious manner". The Floor statements in both Houses further support this conclusion. I therefore confirm that the Secretary's request is consistent with Congressional intent.

Sincerely,

of a. Mr Clure hairman

JAM/ech

2/22...To OCA for Direct Reply.. Suspense: Mar 15.. Cpys to: RF, Docket.. 82-171