



Rec'd CRBRPO
6/29/82

June 24, 1982

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

Dear Chairman Palladino:

Clinch River Breeder Reactor has been a project which Congress Watch has strongly opposed both because of its associated costs and its inherent dangers. Congress Watch has recently learned that no supplement to the 1977 Final Environmental Impact Statement has been filed for the Clinch River project. It is our position that since 1977 circumstances have significantly changed, necessitating a revision of the EIS. It would be improper for the NRC to license CRBR based on the 1977 information since the design of the reactor's vessel and core has been substantially modified and relevant NRC regulations, including those concerning accident risk reduction and the transportation of hazardous radioactive materials, have changed since 1977. A May 25, 1982 GAO study noted that developing and demonstrating reliable steam generators continues to be one of the most significant problems facing the CRBR project. The report indicates that the Department of Energy does not currently plan to conduct complete tests of the steam generator designed to be used in the project. In light of this fact, it is imperative that an updated EIS supplement be filed which addresses the safeguards and risks associated with the current design.

Especially now, after the Three Mile Island incident and the April 1982 sodium leaks and fires which occurred at the French breeder reactor, Phenix, it is crucial to ensure that the Clinch River Breeder Reactor program's EIS properly and cautiously evaluates the risk of both equipment and human error in light of the most current scientific studies and information garnered from practical experience.

This expensive and risky project warrants your most serious deliberations.

Sincerely,

Janet S. Hathaway
Janet S. Hathaway
Legislative Representative

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Xerox to all Commissioners.