TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

CHATTANOOGA. TENNESSEE 37401 400 Chestnut Street Tower II

DOCKETED

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August 5, 1982

BRANCH

Secretary of the Commission U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, DC 20555

Attention: Docketing and Service Branch

Dear Sir:

PROPOSED RULE PR- Misc. Notice (Systematic Assessment (41 FR 12240)

TVA is pleased to provide comments on the Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) as noticed in the March 22, 1982 Federal Register (47 FR 12240-12243).

We believe the assessment process as modified is vastly improved over the process that has existed during the past two years. The evaluation criteria outlined in table 1 provides the licensee with a more precise understanding of what is expected of the utility in each of the areas of evaluation. Although one can always differ with the individual evaluation criteria, if these are the criteria NRC is using or intends to use, then it is beneficial for the reviewer as well as the licensee being reviewed to understand how the ratings are being determined.

We believe by providing the report to the licensee before a meeting will allow for more meaningful feedback from the utility during the meeting with NRC. It is presumed that if the licensee has valid comments regarding the findings NRC has in the report, that the final report will reflect these comments and ratings will be adjusted. This would provide greater assurance that the licensee's performance is evaluated in a fair manner.

The process appears to deemphasize the importance of individual findings during the previous year as well as the severity level of these findings. With the present system, a licensee could have a poor rating due to one isolated event with a severity level of III. The poor rating could have resulted in spite of the licensee having its overall programs evaluated as Category I. The new system would provide the licensee with a better understanding of where improvement is required both by functional area and in the seven areas of criteria evaluation.

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We appreciate the opportunity to comment and enclosed are our specific comments.

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

L. M. Mills, Mahager Nuclear Licensing

Enclosure

cc (Enclosure):

Executive Secretary Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, DC 20555

Mr. Tom Tipton AIF, Inc. 7101 Wisconsin Avenue Washington, DC 20555

General

We would support further improvements in the assessment process to lessen the influence of individual interpretation in the assignment of categories.

We are concerned that some of the criteria for the assignment of a plant to categories are too subjective.

Section B, Procedure

- We believe that there should be some criteria concerning the membership
 of the SALP board.
- 2. We believe the statement ". . . provides a report of its efforts to the licensee at least one week before meeting with the licensee" does not allow enough time to properly prepare for the meeting. We suggest this should be at least two weeks.

Section F, Evaluation Criteria

We believe evaluation criteria should include "Licensee Initiative:
 Innovative Programs." This would allow licensee performance that was above standard in new approaches to problems to be recognized.