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September 28, 1982

Chairman Nunzio Palladino
 U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
 1717 H Street, N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I have been reviewing the problems of pressurized water reactors and steam generator tube degradation. As NRC documents show, steam generator problems are serious and widespread.

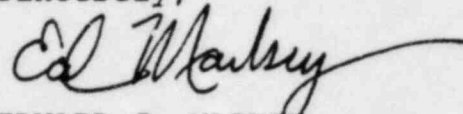
In reviewing NRC's materials, as well as the recent report by the U.S. General Accounting Office regarding the steam generators anticipated for installation at the Clinch River Breeder Reactor, a number of questions have been raised which I would appreciate the NRC's help in answering.

1. What is the potential for leaks or ruptures in the steam generators planned for use at Clinch River?
2. What would be the range of consequences for a steam generator tube leak or rupture at Clinch River and how would it differ from those in pressurized water reactors?
3. What studies, memoranda, or correspondence has NRC prepared or received on the consequences of steam generator tube leaks or ruptures in the Clinch River Breeder Reactor or other breeders?
4. What is the history of steam generator problems in domestic and foreign breeder reactors? Have there been corrosion, vibration, or other types of degradation detected in breeder reactor steam generators?
5. What assurances can the NRC provide that there will be no steam generator tube degradation at Clinch River once it is in operation?

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I would appreciate a timely response to these questions.
In advance, thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ed Markby". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

EDWARD J. MARKBY
Chairman, Oversight
and Investigations
Subcommittee