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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

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JUL 28 1982

The Honorable Marilyn L. Bouquard
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy
Research and Production
Committee on Science and Technology
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madame Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of July 14, 1982 regarding the Clinch River Breeder Reactor Plant. After a careful analysis of applicable Council on Environmental Quality and Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations, the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation has decided to circulate for public comment a supplement to the 1977 Final Environmental Statement (FES) for the Clinch River Breeder Reactor Plant. Weighing importantly in the decision was the judgment that the following items constitute significant new information:

- assessment of specific, as opposed to a generic, fuel cycle;
- augmented alternative site analysis;
- changes in accident analysis methodology;
- more specific safeguards requirements;
- new analysis of striped bass problems and rare and endangered species considerations;
- change in conclusion regarding in-lieu-of-tax payments and tax revenues;
- change in the reactor core design.

The draft supplement to the FES has been issued for a 45-day comment period which is expected to begin on July 30. We plan to issue in late October a final supplement to the FES which will address the comments received.

With regard to an early public hearing in Oak Ridge, we are studying the issues associated with the request for a limited work authorization to determine which of these might efficiently be litigated prior to the completion of the public

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The Honorable Marilyn L. Bouquard - 2 -

comment process. We believe that this action will minimize delay in completion of the public hearings necessitated by the preparation and circulation of the draft supplement.

Sincerely,

(Signed) William J. Dircks

William J. Dircks
Executive Director
for Operations

DL 5 ADS Clinch-River

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July 14, 1982

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Nunzio J. Palladino, Chairman
 U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
 Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I understand that the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation is considering whether or not to recirculate the Final Environmental Statement (FES) for the Clinch River Breeder Reactor Plant (CRBRP) following the completion of the staff's review of the updated environmental information submitted by the Applicants. It is also my understanding that a decision to recirculate the FES for comment could cause significant delays in the schedule for public hearings and in the overall CRBRP schedule. The information of which I am aware regarding the CRBRP does not indicate that data developed since 1977 would significantly affect the prior conclusion of environmental acceptability. I trust that you will, as always, consider this matter carefully and will factor in the broader public interest considerations inherent in a decision that would delay the CRBRP project.

There is of course strong local support among my constituents for the project. Furthermore, I feel strongly that public hearings should begin and be completed in Oak Ridge at the earliest possible date to assure adequate input in the licensing process from my constituents.

Sincerely,

Marilyn

MARILYN L. BOUQUARD, Chairman
 Subcommittee on Energy Research
 and Production

MLB:jms

cc: William J. Dircks

Reply 7/28/82

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