

June 3, 1994

50-259

The Honorable Jim Sullivan  
President, Alabama Public Service  
Commission  
P.O. Box 991  
Montgomery, Alabama 36101-0991

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

I am responding to your letter dated May 2, 1994, in which you relayed concerns regarding cooling of stored spent fuel at the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant. In your letter, you requested to know what action the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is taking to address these concerns in order to ensure the safety of the environment and the public. The NRC is aware of the issues on spent fuel pool cooling raised by Messrs. Lochbaum and Prevatte and is currently evaluating the safety significance of those concerns. The staff's preliminary review has determined the loss of spent fuel pool cooling issues raised by Messrs. Lochbaum and Prevatte to be of low safety significance. Specifically, the staff considered a loss-of-coolant accident or loss of offsite power coupled with the subsequent failure of numerous reactor core cooling systems and the failure of or inability to restore cooling to the spent fuel storage pool to be a low probability sequence. The staff is conducting a thorough, comprehensive evaluation of the issues to confirm the preliminary assessment. As part of the comprehensive review, the staff will evaluate the applicability of the issues raised to other nuclear power plants, including Browns Ferry.

To date, the staff has issued an information notice informing all boiling water reactor (BWR) licensees of the loss of spent fuel pool cooling issue (Information Notice 93-83, "Potential Loss of Spent Fuel Pool Cooling Following a Loss of Coolant Accident (LOCA)"). In addition, the staff requested and received a generic assessment, dated March 4, 1994, of the spent fuel pool cooling concerns from the BWR Owners Group. If the staff determines, as a result of its review of the postulated safety hazard at the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, that further generic action is warranted, it will take appropriate action.

I trust this letter is responsive to your concerns. If you have further questions regarding this issue, please do not hesitate to contact our staff project manager for this issue, Joseph W. Shea, at (301) 504-1428.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

James M. Taylor  
Executive Director  
for Operations

9406140261 940603  
PDR ADOCK 05000259  
P PDR

cc: See next page

\*PREVIOUS CONCURRENCE

OFFICE	PDI-2/LA*	PDI-2/PM*	PDI-2/D*	TECH EDITOR*	DRPE/AD*
NAME	MO'Brien	JShea:rb	CMiller	RSanders	JCalvo
DATE	05/25/94	05/25/94	05/25/94	05/15/94	05/19/94
OFFICE	DSSA/D*	RPE/D*	NRR/ADP*	NRR/D*	EDC
NAME	MVirgilio	SVarga	LReyes	WRussell	JTaylor
DATE	05/16/94	05/19/94	05/25/94	05/31/94	6/3/94

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Pennsylvania Power & Light Company

Susquehanna Steam Electric Station,  
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## BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT

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# ACTION

## EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 05/27/94

EDO CONTROL: 0010053  
DOC DT: 05/02/94  
FINAL REPLY:

Jim Sullivan  
Alabama Public Service Commission

TO:

Chairman Selin

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

\*\* GRN \*\*

CRC NO: 94-0439

Executive Director

DESC:

ROUTING:

ENCLOSES LETTER FROM DAVID A. LOCHBAUM AND  
DONALD C. PREVATTE CONCERNING SAFETY HAZARD  
INVOLVING DESIGN OF THE SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC  
STATION AND OTHER PLANTS WITH SIMILAR DESIGN

Taylor  
Milhoan  
Thompson  
Blaha  
TMartin, RI

DATE: 05/11/94

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NRR

Russell

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

NRR RECEIVED:

MAY 12, 1994

NRR ACTION:

DRPE:VARGA

NRR ROUTING:

RUSSELL  
MIRAGLIA  
REYES  
THADANI  
CRUTCHFIELD  
GILLESPIE  
BOHRER



