



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555
November 2, 1987

TVA
Udall Comm.

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman Zech
Commissioner Roberts
Commissioner Bernthal
Commissioner Carr
Commissioner Rogers

FROM: John C. Bradburne, Director
Congressional Affairs, GPA *W*

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS ON TVA/SEQUOYAH STATUS

On October 29, 1987, Mr. Keppler and staff of the Office of Special Projects (OSP) met with Dr. Henry Myers and staff of the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations (chaired by Rep. Dingell) at their request to brief them on the status of restart plans for TVA/Sequoyah and to answer questions regarding the conditions necessary for restart approval. Similar briefings were provided to members of the staff of Senator Sasser (D-TN) and to Representative Marilyn Lloyd (D-TN), representing the TVA Congressional caucus. Rep. Jim Cooper (D-TN) attended both the briefing for Dr. Myers and the Dingell staff and the briefing for the TVA caucus.

In all three briefings, Mr. Keppler summarized the status as follows: OSP is generally comfortable with the progress being made toward restart. The current estimated restart date is February-April 1988. Three major technical issues (cables, pipe supports, and civil/structural problems identified by the IDI) and a number of minor issues remain. In addition, the Commission will have to address the "integrity" issue raised by the investigations into the conduct of TVA management prior to any restart decision. TVA wishes to "heat up" Sequoyah for testing purposes. The staff believes this would be a good idea but have advised TVA that all regulatory requirements for a restart must be met.

At the beginning of the Udall/Dingell staff briefing, Rep. Cooper asked several questions related to turnover in the top management of OSP responsible for TVA. Mr. Keppler assured him that steps had been taken to provide for a smooth transition at the staff level and he anticipated a smooth transition with his replacement, who has not yet been designated. Rep. Cooper expressed concern that a replacement for Mr. Keppler be selected promptly so that a smooth transition could be effected.

The OSP staff answered numerous questions from Dr. Myers and the Dingell Subcommittee staff concerning the findings of the IDI and technical issues related to restart. An explanation was provided as to why the

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civil/structural problems uncovered by the IDI had not been previously identified and assurance was given that all of the "Dallas Hix" issues and the questions raised by Dr. Myers would be answered prior to staff recommendation of restart.

Detailed technical questions were not discussed at the status briefings for the TVA congressional caucus (Mrs. Lloyd) and for Senator Sasser's staff. In both briefings assurances were given that the NRC would make every effort to keep all parties interested in TVA matters informed and that we would give balanced attention to the varying interests and opinions within the Congress. Mrs. Lloyd noted that she planned to visit the Sequoyah plant and would welcome the company of Mr. Keppler during her tour in late November/early December.

CONTACT: Steve Kent (x4-1443)

cc: EDO
UGC
OSP
GPA/Denton
GPA/PA
GPA/SLITP
GPA/IP
SECY