



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

FEB 20 1986

The Honorable John J. Duncan
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Duncan:

This letter is in response to your January 20, 1986, letter regarding concerns of a constituent from the law offices of Swafford and Mitchell who expressed the concern that the NRC was dilatory in advising TVA what needs to be done to correct TVA's problems with their nuclear program. The letter further stated that "the NRC should tell TVA what to do, and then see that it is done, otherwise, the NRC should not be in charge of nuclear plants."

The newspaper article attached to the January 6, 1986, letter contained a good explanation of the staff's position in this and all NRC interactions with the utilities who build and operate nuclear power plants.

The NRC is responsible under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, to assure that licensed nuclear power plants provide adequate protection of the public health and safety. I can assure you that the Commission is conducting its investigations of TVA actions to correct their corporate as well as plant-specific problems in an expedited manner and in accordance with applicable laws, NRC regulations, and the Commission's policy statement.

The constituent's letter suggests the NRC should actively participate with TVA in developing and implementing the solution to their problems. The staff cannot dictate solutions to TVA. The responsibility rests with TVA to determine those solutions. However, we do indicate, to the best of our ability, any of our concerns with TVA responses to resolve issues in as much detail as possible. As part of the NRC review of TVA's actions to resolve their problems, the NRC will inspect and review selected aspects of the TVA facilities' design, construction, and operation. Results of these inspections and reviews will be documented in safety evaluation reports and inspection reports that are available at the Chattanooga Hamilton County Library, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

In summary, the NRC is concerned about the problems affecting TVA, and how they affect the people which the utility serves. We are doing everything possible within the statutory regulations to ensure that TVA resolves issues raised on their facilities in an expeditious manner without endangering the health and safety of the public.

I trust this will assist you in responding to your constituent about his concerns.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
Victor Stello

Victor Stello, Jr.
Acting Executive Director
for Operations

* SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCES

PWR#4:DPWR-A
TKenyon:kab
02/14/86

PWR#4:DPWR-A
*CStahle
02/05/86

PWR#4:DPWR-A
*MDuncan
02/05/86

PWR#4:DPWR-A
BJYoungblood
02/5/86
2/14/86

DD:DPWR-A
TNovak
02/14/86

D:TVA
HThompson
02/14/86

DD:NRC
DEid
02/14/86

D:NRC
HDenson
02/14/86

EDO
VStello
02/19/86

OCA
02/20/86

DISTRIBUTION: GREEN TICKET 001359
Docket File* (*w/incoming)

NRC PDR*

L PDR*

NSIC

PRC System

EDO #001359

EDO R/F

HDento:i/DEisenhut

PWR#4 R/F*

MDuncan*

TKenyon

CStahle

BJYoungblood R/F

EJordan

BGrimes

JPartlow

ACRS (10)

OELD

OCA (3)

SECY (3) CRC #86-0068

~~WDicks~~ *Stall*

DMossburg*

HThompson/Pat

Swartz

NRC FORM 8

(4-79)

NRCM 0240

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INCOMING AND SIGNATURE TAB

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WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

*Read 4/10/86
1/24*

Thompson

EDD PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL

2/5/86 to Denton

FROM: REP. JOHN J. DUNCAN

DATE: 02/11/86

EDD CONTROL: 001359
DOC DT: 01/20/86
FINAL REPLY:

TO: OCA

FOR SIGNATURE OF: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

** GREEN **

SECY NO: 86-68

DESC: ENCLOSURE LETTER FROM SWAFFORD & MITCHELL RE TVA PLANT TROUBLES

ROUTING: TAYLOR GRACE

DATE: 01/28/86
ASSIGNED TO: NRR CONTACT: DENTON

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

NRR RECEIVED: 1/28/86
ACTION: DPLA: THOMPSON
NRR ROUTING: DENTON/EISENHUT
PP PAS
MOSSBURG/TOMS