



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

MAY 17 1988

Docket Nos. 50-445/446

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board for Comanche Peak  
(P. B. Bloch, W. H. Jordan, K. A. McCollom, E. B. Johnson)

FROM: Christopher I. Grimes, Director  
Comanche Peak Project Division  
Office of Special Projects

SUBJECT: REPORT OF SPECIAL INQUIRY BY DAVID C. WILLIAMS, GAO  
(BOARD NOTIFICATION NO. 88-03)

In Board Notification Nos. 86-24, dated December 11, 1986, 87-06, dated April 3, 1987, and 87-12, dated August 18, 1987, the staff provided you with information related to the Office of Inspector and Auditor (OIA) Report No. 86-10 and the results of the Comanche Peak Report Review Group (NUREG-1257).

Subsequently, Congressional representatives requested that the Office of Special Investigations of the General Accounting Office conduct an inquiry into this and other matters concerning the NRC's investigative practices. The results of the GAO inquiry were recently released by the NRC in a press release (Enclosure 1) which attached the Special Report from David C. Williams (Enclosure 2).

Because this report addresses matters related to the referenced Board Notifications and inspection activities as they pertain to the Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station, the staff is providing this report for your information.

*CI Grimes*

Christopher I. Grimes, Director  
Comanche Peak Project Division  
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Enclosures:

1. Press Release No. 88-46
2. Letter from David C. Williams, GAO to Lando W. Zech, Jr., NRC, dated April 22, 1988, forwarding Special Report

cc w/enclosures:  
See next page

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**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
Office of Governmental and Public Affairs  
Washington, D.C. 20655

No. 88-46  
Tel. 301/492-0240

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
(Monday, April 25, 1988)

SPECIAL INQUIRY ON NRC MATTERS COMPLETED

Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Lando W. Zech, Jr., announced today that the NRC has received a report from David C. Williams of the General Accounting Office concerning a special inquiry conducted by Mr. Williams into three internal matters of concern to NRC and the Congress. Mr. Williams, head of GAO's Office of Special Investigations, conducted the independent inquiry at the request of the Commission. His report was made public today by the NRC.

In releasing the report, Chairman Zech said:

"David Williams has performed an important service to the Commission. I agree with his comment that the important mission and critical safety role of the NRC require that it possess a first-rate investigative capability with resources that will assure the NRC's ability to perform its function in a professional, competent manner. I am pleased that Mr. Williams' investigation found that the evidence does not support the allegation of improper discussions between the Executive Director for Operations and an official of TVA. I also am pleased that no evidence was developed to indicate that substantive changes were made in the Office of Inspector and Auditor investigative report on the Comanche Peak matter during the review and editing stage. The Williams report recognizes that we already have reviewed the policies and procedures for handling allegations involving Commissioners and their offices. The Commission will give careful consideration to Mr. Williams' entire report in our continuing efforts to assure that we carry out our investigative responsibilities fairly and efficiently."

Mr. Williams' inquiry at NRC focused on the adequacy of an Office of Inspector and Auditor (OIA) investigation of allegations of staff misconduct involving the Comanche Peak plant under construction in Texas; the adequacy of an OIA investigation of allegations of improper communication between Victor Stello, NRC Executive Director for Operations, and Steven White of the Tennessee Valley Authority; and the circumstances under which Mid-South Utilities obtained an internal NRC document that appears to have come from the files of Commissioner Thomas Roberts' office, and the subsequent handling of that matter.