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8712090006 TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37401

6N 38A Lookout Place

December 1, 1987

Mr. Stewart D. Ebnetter, Director
Office of Special Projects
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
4350 East-West Highway
Ell 322
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Dear Mr. Ebnetter:

By letter dated October 21, 1987, Messrs. Christie, Lau, and Proctor of our Systems Engineering Branch wrote to you charging that TVA's Office of Nuclear Power (ONP) "has intentionally provided misleading information about the Browns Ferry Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA) to the NRC." Their letter also alleges that "because of our attempts to remedy this situation within TVA" they have been subject to harassment and intimidation.

The October 21 letter notes that both of these allegations are being investigated by TVA's Inspector General. The letter fails to acknowledge that I referred the issue of misleading information to the Inspector General for his review as soon as I learned of it on September 14, 1987. On October 6 I further requested the Inspector General to investigate the possibility of intimidation and harassment. These actions were taken in accordance with my policy to promptly investigate all such charges involving ONP personnel as part of our determined effort to take all reasonable steps to eliminate their occurrence.

Apart from the Inspector General's review, I am also separately examining the technical merits of the apparent dispute, which may underlie the allegations in the six items of "potentially misleading information" set out in the October 21, 1987 letter. As you know, TVA decided to perform an Individual Plant Examination (IPE) for Browns Ferry prior to unit 2 restart and to complete an updated PRA postrestart. Mr. Lau, including members of his staff, appear to have a differing professional opinion with this decision. These individuals have made a proposal which involves using probabilistic arguments to eliminate certain of the special technical programs at Browns Ferry. In order to assist me in resolving this differing professional opinion, I have obtained the services of an independent contractor to review their proposal and to advise me.

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Mr. Stewart D. Ebnetter, Director

December 1, 1987

I will inform you of the results of the Inspector General's investigation and how I intend to resolve the technical issue as soon as the information is available.

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

SAW

S. A. White
Manager of Nuclear Power

SAW:MLG

.cc: RIMS, HR 4N 72A-C
E. S. Christenbury, E11 B33 C-K
C. H. Fox, Jr., LP 6N 38A-C
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