

FROM Sen. Edward W. Brooke (Mass.)	CONTROL NUMBER 9510	FILE LOCATION
	DATE OF DOCUMENT 11/21/75	ACTION COMPLETION DEADLINE 12/18/75
TO CA, NRC	ACTION PROCESSING DATES Acknowledged 12/2/75 Interim Reply _____ Final _____	PREPARE FOR SIGNATURE OF: _____ Chairman _____ Director of Regulation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Omitted

DESCRIPTION Ltr <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original <input type="checkbox"/> Copy <input type="checkbox"/> Other Encloses ltr fm Dennis H. Brown urging a full congressional investigation of the Browns Ferry fire	REMARKS Return enclosure w/reply Mark envelope to Attn: Marsha LPDR? _____
--	---

REFERRED TO Knuth f/action	DATE 12/5/75	IS NOTIFICATION TO THE JCAE RECOMMENDED? _____
		Cys: Hanauer
		Rusche
		Case
		Docket Files 50-259
		PDR 50-260
		50-296 ✓

DO NOT DETACH THIS COPY

DIRECTOR OF REGULATION
COMMUNICATIONS CONTROL

Form HQ-32 (1-73)
USAEC

United States Senate

November 21, 1975

Respectfully referred to:

Director, Office of Congressional Liaison
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Because of the desire of this office to be responsive to all inquiries and communications, your consideration of the attached is requested. Your findings and views, in duplicate form, along with return of the enclosure, will be appreciated by

Rec'd O.C.L.
Date 12/4/75
Time 2:15

Edward W. Brooke
U.S.S.

3510

Form #2 Please reply attention Marsha.

Handwritten signature

32 Magnolia Street
Arlington, Massachusetts 02174
2 October 1975

Sen. Edward W. Brooke
U. S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Brooke,

I have just completed reading an investigative report titled, "The Incident at Brown's Ferry" by David Comey, a notable lawyer in the environmental area. His paper was an insert in a recent issue of "Not Man Apart". This country, according to Mr. Comey, nearly witnessed what the AEC (now NRC) swore could never occur; namely, a nuclear power plant melt down.

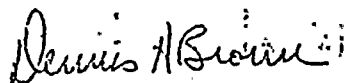
Mr. Comey's paper draws heavily from official, not yet public, NRC and TVA reports. The Brown's Ferry Nuclear Power Plant, located near Athens, Georgia, experienced a serious fire in its cable-spreader room last March. Through the cable-spreader room (located below the control room) passes all the wire and cable from the control room to all the nuclear power plant equipment. It is through these cables that the plant operators can turn on and off equipment and otherwise run the plant. The fire lasted 16 hours and for most of that time cut off the plant operators from the nuclear power plant system. The operators could not insert the control rods to stop the nuclear reaction and could not provide cooling water for the nuclear cores. At one point the water fell to a level that within one hour a melt-down would have begun. They were lucky to have extremely talented mechanics who gerry-rigged a cooling water system and, quite literally, saved lives. The operators lost control of the relief valves and both containment vessels seriously overpressured and could have exploded.

Besides the operational problems, they did not follow the law. During the emergency situation, a melt-down was a real possibility. The plant personnel did not notify the local Civil Defense director as required to begin evacuation. It is doubtful that an evacuation could have been done efficiently anyway as the plan had not been updated since 1972.

And so it goes on, a comedy of errors that endangered thousands of lives. The Brown's Ferry incident raises some very serious questions. Are nuclear power plants designed and run safely? Or are we playing with dynamite. Every nuclear power plant in the country has a cable spreader seemingly inviting disaster. Why has the NRC put a clamp on information about the incident? Don't we live in a democratic society?

In my opinion the Brown's Ferry incident is serious enough to warrant a full fledged congressional investigation now. As my senator, I urge you to initiate this action now.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis H. Brown". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Dennis H. Brown