

ROBERT E. JONES
5TH DISTRICT, ALABAMA

HOME ADDRESS:
SCOTTSBORO, ALABAMA

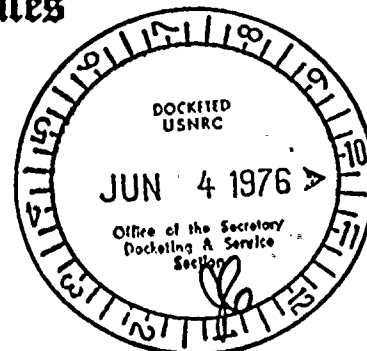
COMMITTEE:
PUBLIC WORKS AND
TRANSPORTATION,
CHAIRMAN

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

May 20, 1976



Mr. Thomas W. Reilly, Esq., Chairman
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Docket Nos. 50-259
50-260

Dear Chairman Reilly:

As representatives of citizens of the Tennessee Valley region, we are vitally concerned with both the energy supply situation in this vast region and the rising costs for electrical service that our constituents must bear. We understand that if the generating capacity from the Tennessee Valley Authority's Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant is not available to meet system requirements this summer, severe economic penalties amounting up to \$70 million will have to be borne by the people of the TVA service area. Moreover, TVA's system reliability, and therefore reliability throughout much of the southeastern United States, will be seriously eroded.

These consequences can only be justified on the most serious grounds. We are aware that you are members of a Nuclear Regulatory Commission Atomic Safety and Licensing Board which has been appointed to review certain modifications to the Browns Ferry plant.

We further understand that you have decided to hold a hearing because one individual has alleged that TVA and NRC are not competent and that the fire-related plant modifications are not adequate. These contentions from an individual are contrary to the favorable safety evaluation by the NRC staff, a favorable review by the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, statements by former Chairman Anders regarding the safety of the units, and similar statements by other high NRC officials.

Since this hearing process could cause the Browns Ferry plant to be unavailable this summer, unnecessarily if the allegations are found to be baseless, we urge you most strongly to devote your full efforts to the earliest possible resolution of this proceeding.

Chairman Thomas W. Reilly

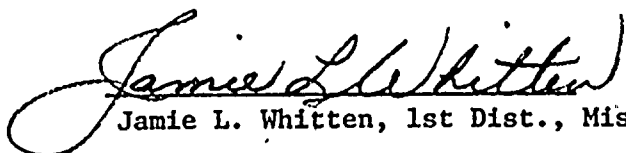
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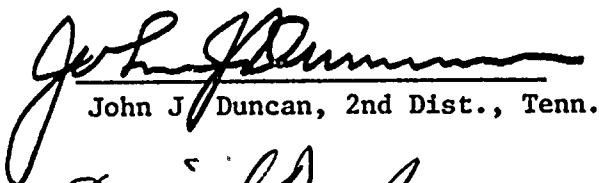
You have a broad grant of authority under the Atomic Energy Act to regulate nuclear power activities for the benefit of the public interest. Your responsibilities are commensurate with that authority.

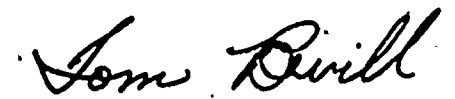
The public interest demands that resources vital to the national interest not be rendered useless in time of great need solely because of unsubstantiated allegations. We urge you to act immediately to determine whether there is substance to these charges. If there is, you can order the necessary corrections. However, the charges alone should not be allowed to delay by one day the operation of this critically needed facility.


We respectfully request this letter be received as a statement of our position under the Commission rule 10 C.F.R. Section 2.715.

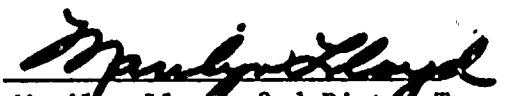

Jamie L. Whitten, 1st Dist., Miss.

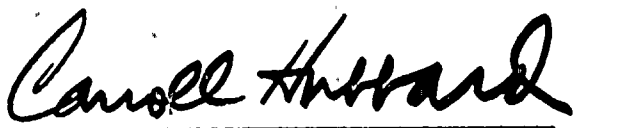

Robert E. Jones, 5th Dist., Ala.

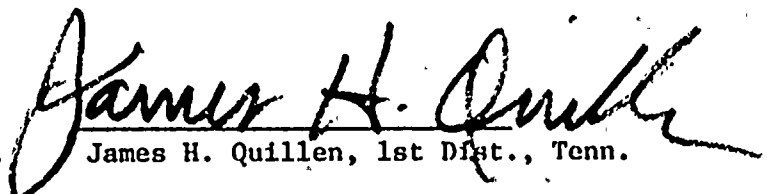

John J. Duncan, 2nd Dist., Tenn.

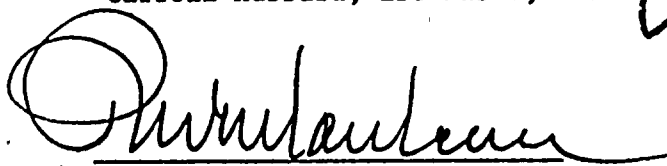

Tom Bevill, 4th Dist., Ala.

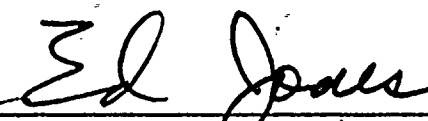

David R. Bowen, 2nd Dist., Miss.


Mayilyn Lloyd, 3rd Dist., Tenn.


Carroll Hubbard, 1st Dist., Kent.


James H. Quillen, 1st Dist., Tenn.


Phil M. Landrum, 9th Dist., Georgia


Ed Jones, 7th Dist., Tenn.

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Bill Wampler

Bill Wampler, 9th Dist., Virginia

Walter Flowers

Walter Flowers, 7th Dist., Ala.

Robin Beard

Robin L. Beard, 6th Dist., Tenn.

cc: Dr. Frederick P. Cowan
Dr. Hugh C. Paxton
Mr. William E. Garner, Esq.
Mr. David G. Powell, Esq.
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board
Docketing and Service Section
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission