

Denton

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

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June 10, 1982

The Honorable Nunzio Palladino
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Sir:

Recently Friends of the Earth received information to the effect that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), in its evaluation of the environmental, health, and safety risks associated with the Clinch River Breeder Reactor (CRBR), may decide against supplementing its 1977 Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the project. Instead, the NRC may license the CRBR relying on outdated information contained in the 1977 FEIS.

Friends of the Earth believes that significant new information and circumstances regarding Clinch River have arisen since 1977. These new developments include:

- 1) Major changes in the design of the CRBR reactor vessel and fuel core;
- 2) Implications of the Three Mile Island accident, regarding in particular human error as a cause of nuclear mishaps, and the risks of serious reactor accidents previously "deemed" incredible;
- 3) A recent U.S. Court of Appeals decision invalidating NRC's summary consideration of the environmental impacts of long-term radioactive waste disposal; and
- 4) Changes in NRC regulations during the last five years regarding safeguards, reactor siting, accident risk reduction, radiation protection, transportation of radioactive material and emergency planning.

We feel these new developments must be disclosed to the public and be fully considered by the NRC.

Accordingly, Friends of the Earth urges the NRC to issue a draft supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Clinch River Breeder Reactor and, once it is issued, please send a copy of the draft to me, at the above address, for comment.

Thank you very much for your attention to this very important matter.

Yours Sincerely,

Caroline Petti
Caroline Petti
FOE Nuclear Waste Coordinator

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