



State of Tennessee

LAMAR ALEXANDER GOVERNOR

July 11, 1981

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

Dear Chairman Palladino,

The U. S. Department of Energy has informed me that it has renewed its request to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission pursuant to 10 C.F.R. §50.12 for authorization to commence site preparation activities for the Clinch River Breeder Reactor Project which will be located in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. I expressed my strong support for this request in a letter to you dated December 19, 1981. I wish to take this opportunity to reiterate my belief that DOE's request to begin site preparation activities is in the public interest for the following reasons:

- a. The Section 50.12 procedure has been part of the Commission's licensing process since 1972. It provides important safeguards to assure that all relevant environment factors are fully considered.
- b. The Section 50.12 procedure fairly allows input from the general public and all interested parties.
- c. The financial commitment to site preparation activities is a minor fraction of project costs, and will not prejudice future consideration of all relevant environmental and safety issues as the Commission's review proceeds to completion.
- d. Unless the request is granted, construction costs will continue to rise and the nation's taxpayers must absorb this burden.
- e. Full environmental and safety hearings will be conducted for the project, and all elements of NRC's licensing process will be completed.
- f. Commencing site preparation at this time will provide new jobs in a state whose jobless rate is higher than the national average.

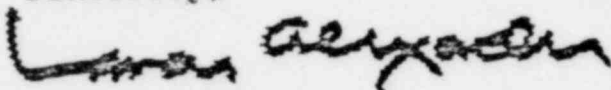
The Honorable Nunzio J. Palladino

page 2

July 21, 1982

The DOE's request has broad support by state and local governmental officials as well as citizens in Tennessee. I would appreciate being kept advised of the status of this request and would be pleased to provide such additional assistance as the Commission may need to expedite decision-making on this vital national project.

Sincerely,



Lamar Alexander

LA/bkd

cc: Senator Howard H. Baker, Jr.
Congresswoman Marilyn Lloyd Bouquard
Attorney General William M. Leech, Jr.,
State of Tennessee
Commissioner John L. Parish

Telecopied July 22, 1982

ORIGINAL TO FOLLOW