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Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Commission has made commendable progress since 1981 on the licensing review of the Clinch River Breeder Reactor Project (CRBRP), and I believe that it is a tribute to your leadership that the Commission has been able to hold precisely to the review schedule that was laid out by the NRC staff in 1981. I know that it has been a complex and difficult task to complete the evaluation process relative to the environmental impacts of the project, to issue the Safety Evaluation Report and to prepare for the safety hearings that are appropriately scheduled for July, 1983. I am also sure that this progress is due, in no small part, to the management skills of Mr. Dircks and Dr. Denton, and the technical competence of their able staff.

As regards to future plans, I would strongly recommend that the Commission retain its technical cadre of experts to review the DOE's breeder program and projects. The Commission should be prepared to review and evaluate any new issues relative to CRBR, the breeder program, and any new proposals for developmental, prototype or other commercial-sized breeder plants. The Government's breeder program, just as in the case of the high-level waste disposal program, will greatly benefit from an informed regulatory staff. And, as in the waste program, the NRC will need to monitor the breeder program as it develops so that the Commission's safety and regulatory-related concerns can be raised and addressed while the research is being conducted. Please let me know what your thoughts are in this regard.

Our compliments to you and the rest of the Commission for assembling such an excellent team. I look forward to continued progress relative to the CRBR and the overall breeder program.

Sincerely,



MARILYN LLOYD, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy Research
and Production

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