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STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT
CORDELL HULL BUILDING
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37219

JAMES E. WORD
COMMISSIONER

April 17, 1985

Nelson Grace, Ph.D., Regional Administrator
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region II
101 Marietta Street, N.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Dr. Grace:

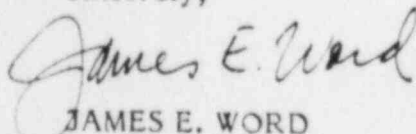
This is in response to Mr. James P. O'Reilly's letter of January 23, 1985, reporting on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's review of Tennessee's radiation control program. We certainly appreciate this periodic review as it provides us with an independent audit of the program's performance, specifically regarding materials regulated by the NRC.

We acknowledge the major deficiency regarding the updating of regulations. This has been a continuing problem for us. The staff of the Division of Radiological Health does have the proposed amendments ready for submittal into the state administrative process which should bring final adoption within this year.

We recognize your comments concerning staff, both the number and the quality of staff. We believe that our present staff is second to none, and we intend to continue to seek individuals who will complement that staff. We certainly realize the importance of the many training courses sponsored by the NRC and do not intend to hire individuals who could not successfully compete in those. We also hope to get approval for additional staff which would be funded by fees on radioactive material licenses. Tennessee has some very complex licensed facilities, and several new major facilities are being proposed in the Oak Ridge area. We are concerned with the burdens that these major facilities, as well as our initiative with DOE in Oak Ridge, will place on the radiation control program. As noted above, we hope to get additional personnel for this effort.

If I or my staff can be of further assistance to you, please let me know.

Sincerely,



JAMES E. WORD
Commissioner

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