

AUG 21 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: T. A. Rehm
Assistant for Operations, EDO

FROM: Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: BEVILL REPORT 99-195

The House of Representatives Appropriations Bill for NRC (HR 2959) has been passed by the House. The Senate version is similar; and the House Appropriations Report (HR 99-195) is not expected to change significantly in conference. The Appropriations Report directs the NRC to take steps to assure that its staff does not seek to modify a license or regulate by application of pressure or intimidation. It further stipulates that any alteration to safety features of a licensed facility should be made only pursuant to a formal requirement established by rule, regulation, or order after appropriate review within the agency. Your memorandum dated July 23, 1985, requested a response by September 1, 1985, if implementation steps are necessary.

It is our present understanding that the Commission intends to issue the pending backfitting rule by no later than September 13, 1985. In the interim, Manual Chapter 0514, Management of Plant-Specific Backfitting of Operating Power Reactors is being used to govern plant-specific actions, and CRGR is reviewing generic backfits, including all backfits applying to more than one plant. Any clarifications or revisions to staff practice as a result of the final rule will be addressed by revisions to the Manual Chapter and the NRR implementation procedures that have been drafted and are to be formally issued following Commission action on the backfitting rule. The NRR procedures will fully address the areas of concern expressed in the Appropriations Report.

/s/ Hugh L. Thompson, Jr. for
Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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