



Tennessee Valley Authority, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902-1499

Craven Crowell  
Chairman, Board of Directors

April 2, 1997

The Honorable Shirley Jackson  
Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Shirley:

As the electric power industry becomes more competitive, we are all learning to do more with less and increase the value of our product to our customers. Productivity measures tracked by the NRC and the nuclear industry show dramatic improvement over the last five years. Even more important than these productivity gains, the safety measures tracked by the NRC and the industry have also shown substantial gains over the last five years. We can be proud that the nuclear industry is improving safety and controlling cost at the same time.

With this in mind, I am concerned about the \$1.4 million increase in our annual NRC fees for fiscal year 1997. The nuclear industry is a mature industry with hundreds of years of combined operating experience to rely on and no new plants being built to require additional NRC resources. The number of operating licensed reactors has decreased, so the base resources NRC needs to perform its services should be decreasing.

I applaud you for your leadership in making fundamental changes in the manner that NRC carries out its regulatory functions and addressing the future direction of NRC's activities. We hope you appreciate our concern about the additional costs we must bear through an increase in fees. Any relief you can give us will be appreciated.

Thank you for considering these views.

Sincerely,

Craven Crowell

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The Honorable Shirley Jackson  
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cc: Commissioner Nils J. Diaz  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Commissioner Greta J. Dicus  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Commissioner Edward McGaffigan, Jr.  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
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✓ Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
ATTN: Docketing and Services Branch  
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