

ORIGINAL

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the matter of:

COMMISSION MEETING

Briefing on Staff
Activities Regarding
TVA

(Public Meeting)

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1 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
2 NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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4 BRIEFING ON STAFF ACTIVITIES REGARDING TVA

5 ***

6 PUBLIC MEETING

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8 Nuclear Regulatory Commission

9 Room 1130

10 1717 H Street, Northwest

11 Washington, D.C.

12
13 Friday, February 7, 1986

14
15 The Commission met in open session, pursuant to
16 notice, at 2:05 o'clock, p.m., the Honorable NUNZIO
17 J. PALLADINO, Chairman of the Commission, presiding.

18 COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

19 NUNZIO J. PALLADINO, Chairman of the Commission

20 THOMAS M. ROBERTS, Member of the Commission

21 JAMES K. ASSELSTINE, Member of the Commission

22 FREDERICK M. BERNTHAL, Member of the Commission

23 LANDO W. ZECH, JR., Member of the Commission

24

25

1 STAFF AND PRESENTERS SEATED AT THE COMMISSION TABLE:

2 S. CHILK, Secretary to the Commission

3 M. MALSCH, General Counsel

4 V. STELLO, EDO

5 H. DENTON, NRR

6 H. THOMPSON, NRR

7 J. TAYLOR, IE

8 J. OLSHINSKI, Region II

9 B. HAYES, OI

10
11 AUDIENCE SPEAKERS:

12 L. SPESSARD

13 J. YOUNGBLOOD

14 T. NOVAK

15 D. SMITH

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P R O C E E D I N G S

[2:05 p.m.]

CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.

This afternoon, the NRC Staff will brief the Commission on the status of actions by the Staff regarding TVA. The Commission last met with Staff on January 7, 1986 to discuss TVA. After the Staff presentation today, OI and OIA will brief the Commission in a closed meeting on the status of their investigations related to this subject.

The primary purpose of this afternoon's meeting is for the Staff to describe the current status of its review and evaluation of the TVA program. SECY-86-1A, "Status of Staff Actions Regarding TVA," discusses the Staff's concerns about TVA corporate activities, as well as the actions necessary either to return plants to operation or to complete the licensing process. Copies of the Staff paper are available on the table in the rear of the room.

The Commission recognizes that a significant amount of information has been received and is presently under Staff review. The Commission further recognizes that TVA also has a large amount of work remaining to be done. For instance, the TVA Employee Concern Program has generated over 4000 allegations, and these allegations are under review by TVA.

Although I understand TVA has recently revised the

1 employee concerns program, I understand also that we have not
2 yet received a copy of that revised plan.

3 During our last meeting with TVA on January 9, TVA
4 announced that they had contracted with Stone & Webster to
5 retain Mr. Steve White to fill the position of Manager of the
6 TVA Office of Nuclear Power, effective January 13th.

7 Also during that meeting, the NRC was advised that
8 significant revisions of the TVA corporate plan were in
9 progress and that the NRC should hold its review in abeyance
10 until the revised plan was submitted.

11 On February 18, TVA will brief the Commission on the
12 development of the revised corporate plan.

13 The topics for today's meeting with the NRC Staff,
14 which will be addressed by the senior management team which
15 the EDO established in April 1985 to coordinate and manage
16 NRC's response to TVA's reaction to our regulatory concerns.
17 The team currently consists of Harold Denton, NRR Director and
18 Chairman; Jim Taylor, IE Director; John Olshinski, Region II,
19 Deputy Regional Administrator; and Ben Hayes, OI Director.

20 Also, we have with us Mr. Hugh Thompson, the
21 Director, TVA Oversight Group. I understand that personnel
22 from Region II are listening in on the telephone.

23 Let me ask if any of my other fellow commissioners
24 have opening remarks at this time.

25 [No response.]

1 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: All right. Then let me turn
2 the meeting over to Mr. Stello.

3 MR. STELLO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 Let me make a few preliminary remarks and then turn
5 the briefing over to the team, who are seated here with me at
6 the table.

7 Last Friday, we sent the Commission a copy of a
8 rather substantial report that outlines the activities that we
9 have underway and identifies estimated times to complete tasks
10 and identifies people responsible for them. And it, by
11 definition, therefore includes a variety of dates. Those
12 dates ought not to be construed to mean in any way, shape, or
13 form that they are trying to describe the time that is
14 required for TVA to do its job, but rather it is the time that
15 is required for us to do the job as best we know it today.

16 You also have to understand that as TVA develops
17 more information, things will change, and we are prepared to
18 make those changes and have tried to put together a PERT chart
19 to describe the critical path, and you will notice that that
20 is principally due to other issues that can arise out of the
21 Employee Concern Program.

22 I view this as a document that is a living
23 document. We will have to change it as things change with
24 TVA, and we are prepared to do that.

25 The thrust of what I hope you got from the document

1 is that the NRC is not sitting back, but we are there,
2 identifying what our job is and have put together the people
3 that are needed to do those various tasks.

4 We have asked TVA -- and I asked that a copy of this
5 report be sent to them -- to look over that report and
6 identify to us people assigned to those tasks and their Staff,
7 so that we can start to develop the working relationships and
8 make sure that those issues are resolved. In many instances,
9 this is done, and in several it is not, and we hope that we
10 will get that feedback from TVA.

11 Hopefully, also as they see other tasks that they
12 are now aware of that we are not, they will identify those to
13 us, so we can add those to the list of things that we have to
14 deal with.

15 I hope by having this piece of paper available now
16 both to us and to them, that we will have a more common
17 understanding of what lies ahead.

18 One last point that I think is very important and
19 that you will get in the briefing this afternoon is that the
20 resources that we are committing to this are, in fact,
21 substantial. Those resources are within the line offices
22 represented by the office directors who are here and in Region
23 II by Mr. Olshinski, and that means that we have had to get
24 resources from other activities. We are going to describe to
25 you what that means and what those impacts are, and you need

1 to understand that this program, as you expected, is
2 substantial, and, in fact, it is.

3 So you will be getting a fairly comprehensive
4 understanding of what all that means this afternoon as we get
5 through the briefing, which we would at least like to get
6 through rather quickly on one pass. I know that is difficult,
7 but I hope you give us an opportunity to just get through it
8 rather quickly, and then we are prepared to deal with any
9 questions you may have.

10 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: I think it would be
11 interesting -- it's a very important point to know what the
12 resource requirements are, and I can't remember where I saw it
13 here, but somewhere here you have number of man-hours,
14 person-hours, person-weeks, I guess, required for these
15 various things.

16 I would also like at some point your judgment on how
17 much of that is doing TVA's work for them, in the sense that
18 -- well, in the spirit of Gramm-Rudman, perhaps these ought to
19 be billable expenses. This agency is diverting a substantial
20 amount of its resources, very scarce resources that should be
21 going to normal regulatory matters right now, to do matters
22 that another federal agency ought to be doing for itself.

23 I would just like your comments on that as we go
24 ahead here.

25 MR. STELLO: Okay. Well, let me answer it directly.

1 We are not doing any of TVA's work. We are doing
2 those things that we believe that we have to do in order to
3 make a judgment that a particular technical issue is, in fact,
4 resolved.

5 Now I will freely admit that because the issues are
6 in front of us, that where we may have been satisfied with
7 more of an audit nature in some areas, that we are, in fact,
8 digging in deeper. We are. We feel that that is justified in
9 light of the circumstances.

10 But that is not doing TVA's work. That is just
11 doing more of our work.

12 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: You know, Vic, though,
13 Fred raises an interesting point. Apart from whether we are
14 doing TVA's work or not, the fact is, we wouldn't be expending
15 these kinds of resources if TVA's performance had not fallen
16 and fallen substantially. This is a much more intensive
17 effort than our normal inspection program.

18 Our inspection program is geared to recovering costs
19 on a uniform basis. That is, we charge an inspection fee, I
20 think, as part of the license fees for the plants. That
21 assumes an average level. Maybe what we ought to think about
22 is a special inspection charge to recover the costs that we
23 are incurring.

24 MR. STELLO: I think, if you would let me -- I think
25 I can answer that question.

1 As I understand the way we are set up, our
2 inspection activities are chargeable per the inspection
3 activities. But in any case, we are going to capture the
4 amount of time that we spend in and we can leave for later to
5 how and to what extent this ought to be billed. I don't want
6 in any way to detract from what we are doing, as to whether we
7 need to answer that question. It can be answered later as
8 well as now, and I don't believe it's important that we deal
9 with it now. We can deal with it later, and I don't think
10 it's of any consequence.

11 But as I recall inspection, we bill for inspection
12 hours on all of our inspection today; is that not right? I
13 think it's lesser of a case in NRR, and more adjustment might
14 be needed there. But I don't see that as a concern that I
15 need to spend very much time with now.

16 But it's a point well taken. We are capturing the
17 time, and when we do, if that's an issue and the Commission
18 wishes to pursue it, we can pursue it in whatever way you
19 would like.

20 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Unfortunately, it doesn't
21 help us very much, because the money goes into the general
22 fund, I think.

23 MR. STELLO: That's why I said it's not of any
24 concern to me, because it isn't going to help me with
25 resources now.

1 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Okay.

2 MR. STELLO: Harold, with that, why don't you start?

3 MR. DENTON: Well, the senior management team thinks
4 we have made considerable progress since we briefed you last
5 time, as there has been a lot of effort put in to organizing
6 what the Staff actions are and what the resources that are
7 required to carry those actions out are and what the impacts
8 are.

9 We think we are in good shape for Sequoyah, and we
10 are working on the next two. We are not going to go through
11 the report that you have in front of you, but we have pulled
12 out the key items that we think you need to know today, and we
13 have about twelve slides and are prepared to go into the
14 things that we think are unique and that we need to bring to
15 your attention.

16 So, Hugh, why don't you begin, and other members of
17 the team will cover their respective assignments.

18 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Harold.

19 Could I have Slide 2?

20 [Slide.]

21 As we said earlier, we will be covering a couple of
22 key areas. I would like to identify those for right now.
23 These will be the areas of equipment qualification, employee
24 concerns, and welding, as those items relate to the Sequoyah
25 review. Those are the ones which we have spent a good deal of

1 effort on recently and have some progress to report back to
2 the Commission.

3 Again, this is, in essence, the paper that you have
4 before you. It's more or less the internal NRC management
5 approach to ensuring that our resources are effectively and
6 efficiently utilized as part of our review of the TVA
7 activities.

8 [Slide.]

9 I think we have covered a good bit of the
10 background. This is our second report to the Commission in
11 response to the Chairman's request of December 13th, and there
12 are a couple of issues that we would want to identify again.

13 One, TVA is reevaluating the status of their
14 ongoing efforts to address the concerns regarding restart or
15 the licensing of their facilities.

16 Steve White sent us a letter on February 4th
17 specifically requesting that our review of any of the Volume 1
18 activities be discontinued, and we also had some internal
19 meetings and discussions with Mr. White where he has asked
20 that detailed meetings with TVA be held in abeyance until he
21 has had an opportunity to look at the issues, so that he can
22 focus on the issues before they meet with the Staff with
23 respect to scheduling. And in particular, we have postponed
24 the meetings on Browns Ferry. And I think you will notice in
25 the paper that we talked about a meeting scheduled for next

1 week on the details on Browns Ferry, and that will be
2 postponed at his request right now.

3 These are just scheduling meetings. Our normal
4 inspection and auditing activities of ongoing programs will be
5 continuing, as we normally do.

6 Again, no TVA schedules have been issued. And based
7 on the discussions I had today with TVA, it is not clear to me
8 that they will be prepared to identify specific schedules at
9 the February 18th meeting. They may be, at that time, only
10 able to discuss generally. We will not be prepared to start
11 before certain dates. So I think we still have some
12 scheduling work to do with TVA.

13 [Slide.]

14 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Yes, that scheduling is
15 important, so that we can dovetail our activities.

16 MR. THOMPSON: It is absolutely very important. In
17 fact, where programs are progressing, where continued
18 interface with TVA on activities, such as environmental
19 qualification or other welding, for instance, programs that
20 are ongoing, we do have those activities scheduled with TVA,
21 and we do have an agreement with Steve White that if there is
22 an activity that we think is important to continue at this
23 time, that he will make arrangements for us to be able to go
24 to the site, conduct that activity so as not to delay our
25 review, as well as his activity.

1 So I think we have a clear agreement in that
2 regard. But for purposes of areas like Browns Ferry, where we
3 are still at the beginning edge, we felt it was appropriate to
4 allow some more time for TVA to look at the issues before
5 them.

6 The purpose of the next three charts, rather than to
7 get into specific details, is to kind of give an overview of
8 the issues that we see before us. These issues were based on
9 review of the TVA responses to the Commission's 50.54(f)
10 letter on activities that we have identified or on particular,
11 special areas that have been identified through the Employee
12 Concern Program or through other activities which have come to
13 NRC's attention that needed response prior to restart.

14 We worked very carefully in my group with the line
15 organizations to develop these schedules and milestones that
16 are in the paper. They have offices identified for lead
17 responsibility, individuals identified in those offices where
18 we have those identified now, with some preliminary resource
19 estimates and preliminary schedule.

20 Again, these are important, so that we have an
21 approach laid out, have a plan, and that approach right now
22 includes reviewing the program at an early stage, such that
23 when it is implemented, the Commission understands what's
24 going to be done and TVA understands any problems that we
25 have.

1 We provide feedback to them at a close-out or exit
2 meetings that we have onsite. We have a procedure where we
3 promptly notify the senior management team of our preliminary
4 conclusions on that and in a very prompt fashion notify TVA in
5 writing of any major issues that have been identified and
6 approvals, as that may be appropriate.

7 We are doing this as quickly as possible, so that
8 there are no difficulties that are not immediately known to
9 TVA.

10 In addition, my own group is working to ensure that
11 the programs are well meshed. Where items can complete the
12 reviews for more than one unit at a time, those are done to
13 conserve resources, as well as to make sure items don't drop
14 through the cracks. So that's another activity we are doing.

15 Again, I would like to reemphasize what Mr. Stello
16 said, that these schedules are preliminary. We are making no
17 effort to get out ahead of TVA, and where TVA indicates that
18 they think that we may be pushing them harder than they want
19 to be, we obviously will back off as it relates to schedule
20 planning.

21 We are obviously looking at what we think are
22 critical path items.

23 [Slide.]

24 This is just the PERT chart which is in the
25 Commission paper, identifying the general flowchart. You

1 would note that there are a large number of items on there.
2 Primarily they're very -- I believe that's page E1-3. The
3 PERT chart there clearly indicates that part of our planning
4 activities include briefing the Commission as part of this
5 restart activity effort with the start-up of Unit-1 following
6 fairly quickly behind that activity.

7 Again, of those activities -- I think that's why we
8 didn't do too much on the briefing chart. It's just kind of
9 schematic to show what happens. The dark line indicates the
10 critical path, which happens to be the employee concerns for
11 that particular review activity, and that's one we will talk
12 about later with the line organization specifically addressing
13 that particular one.

14 MR. DENTON: One item we don't show there is the
15 investigations that have to be completed by OI, and we are
16 working with Ben to be sure that the resources are made
17 available to OI, technical support resources, so that the
18 necessary activities that he has underway will also be
19 completed in time.

20 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: You have the intimidation
21 and harassment ones on there; but you're talking about in
22 addition to that?

23 MR. DENTON: Well, whatever Ben needs to be sure
24 that those are completed.

25 MR. THOMPSON: The package we have in here, the

1 summary chart is not including the details on OI's schemes at
2 this time.

3 MR. DENTON: And we thought it best to talk about
4 those activities in the next meeting.

5 MR. THOMPSON: Could I have slide five, please?

6 [Slide.]

7 MR. THOMPSON: Again, these are the Watts Bar
8 issues. They are very similar in nature to the issues that
9 are before Sequoyah. In fact, the only reason they are fewer
10 are that many of those that are before Sequoyah deal with the
11 conditions after licensing in such areas as design control,
12 and those areas tend to be reviewed, in this particular area,
13 under the licensing items.

14 One major issue obviously in the Watts Bar review is
15 the number of employee concerns is significantly higher at
16 Watts Bar, as well as the welding program is significantly
17 more extensive and requiring additional effort and review on
18 our part. NRR is listed as the lead responsibility for most
19 of these technical areas because it is a licensing plant.
20 That doesn't mean we are not fully coordinating with the
21 Region and the I&E, but for the purposes of the licensing
22 document, NRR would be the lead organization for that
23 activity.

24 If I could have the Browns Ferry summary issue.

25 MR. DENTON: Apparently there has been some

1 confusion over whether this review was being done in the line
2 or by a special group. It is probably worthwhile to reiterate
3 what everyone has said, that review is being done in the line,
4 all activities are carried out in the normal line. What we
5 are is a coordinating group, as Hugh has mentioned.

6 The assignment of lead responsibility doesn't really
7 change the way the line normally works on any issue.

8 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Incidentally, on each of these,
9 you say these are the Watts Bar issues and these are the
10 Sequoyah issues. Those are the issues as you see them today?

11 MR. THOMPSON: These are the issues as we see them
12 today. Obviously, with Watts Bar and Browns Ferry, we do not
13 have a response to the 50.54(f) letter, which provides one of
14 the major inputs in our ability to identify -- some of our
15 issues were identified in our letter itself. We are expecting
16 them to respond to the issues identified as areas for poor
17 performance in the past.

18 MR. DENTON: We are not ignoring Watts Bar and
19 Browns Ferry, but it is fair to say the principal activity has
20 been getting Sequoyah clearly identified. I would expect as
21 we continue to work on the other two, we may find additional
22 items to add to that.

23 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: You know, I have to say this
24 is extraordinary to see an issue summary for a three unit
25 plant that on just a rough scan, sort of looks like the whole

1 plant to me. I am having trouble finding anything that isn't
2 an issue, Harold.

3 MR. DENTON: Let me have John Olshinski talk about
4 that.

5 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: We just ought to start all
6 over for a new license or something.

7 MR. DENTON: You will recall they did have a lot of
8 low SALP ratings and a lot of difficulties. We have asked
9 John to be prepared to talk about the Browns Ferry list.

10 MR. OLSHINSKI: Yes; I can talk about it. On Browns
11 Ferry, the reason the list is longer there than on Watts Bar
12 or Sequoyah, there are a couple of reasons. One, there were
13 more SALP Category 3's on Browns Ferry; there were seven, as I
14 recall, SALP Category 3's, and each of those have to be
15 addressed and they are folded in here.

16 The other thing that makes this list especially long
17 is they had a regulatory improvement program underway, in
18 which they were going to go back and do a number of things and
19 close out on these items, those items they were already
20 committed to do are included in this list prior to start-up,
21 that we would be going to look to see if in fact they
22 completed those activities satisfactorily.

23 In fact, most of the Region II issues that you see
24 listed there fall into one of those two categories. It was a
25 SALP Category 3 or a major program as part of their regulatory

1 improvement program that they had underway, by order, and we
2 will go back and look to see if that was accomplished, and
3 completely appropriately before start-up. That's why it looks
4 like that.

5 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: It looks like -- I don't see
6 a resource. You say it is an indeterminate resource need, I
7 guess.

8 MR. DENTON: We will get to resources in just a
9 moment.

10 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: Okay. Go ahead.

11 MR. STELLO: Let me make one more point along with
12 John. A lot of these issues that you see on here are issues
13 that they already had as activities that were underway, long
14 before we got into this TVA problem last Spring. They are
15 long term programs, as you can see, that are listed here, that
16 they were scheduled to do out in the future. They are also
17 picked up here as issues. It is more comprehensive because
18 it comes back to the laundry list of issues that they have had
19 to pick up as retrofits to the plant.

20 I think if you would see a typical list for a
21 typical operating plant, I'm not so sure it would be very much
22 different as the number of issues and backlog of actions that
23 they have pending. If you look typically in your last book at
24 the number of actions pending, let's see, some of them that I
25 remember -- what was it, Brunswick, that was started, Harold,

1 that had a list of what, 42 or 43 items?

2 MR. THOMPSON: Seventy-eight.

3 MR. STELLO: Seventy-eight on Brunswick as an
4 example of pending action items. For Brunswick, when Harold
5 started that, Brunswick improvement program, the list
6 numbered, I think, 78, as we are told.

7 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: Maybe a better question to
8 ask then is which of these are the unusual issues, which of
9 them fall outside the category that might apply to a typical
10 plant?

11 MR. STELLO: Clearly, the employee concerns issue,
12 you have to identify, NSRS reports, as examples, that you
13 would have to identify, that came out of the program that was
14 started last Spring.

15 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Fire protection; they are
16 way behind on that.

17 MR. STELLO: I suspect you have fire protection at a
18 lot of plants today, too. I wouldn't call that unusual.
19 Those are two. There could be others as we go through it. I
20 don't think you should view this as any way comprehensive,
21 because certainly TVA itself is not finished.

22 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: Employee concerns and
23 allegations are something that I think we learned how to
24 handle by the truckload in the Diablo Canyon proceeding.
25 Those are people problems and the kind of thing that I think

1 we are pretty organized in dealing with now.

2 Environmental qualification is the one thing that
3 comes to mind that we have talked about for a year, that
4 really involves identifiable hardware, where we know they were
5 simply way behind almost every other utility, particularly at
6 Browns Ferry.

7 Is that still the outstanding hardware item or is
8 that not the correct characterization as of today?

9 MR. STELLO: I don't think we know, because you have
10 got to wait until TVA identifies the rest of the issues, then
11 you look at them, you know, which one of them is --

12 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: Based on employee concerns?

13 MR. STELLO: Well, I would just simply stop -- you
14 have to wait until TVA is finished and they decide what more
15 they have got to do or want to do before I think we could
16 really answer that question. It would be just a guess.

17 MR. DENTON: This is all three plants. As I
18 understand it, the re-start of those plants has spread out
19 considerably in time.

20 MR. TAYLOR: TVA, on the equipment qualification,
21 took their resources and their engineering talent and really
22 put it to work on Sequoyah. They really tried to concentrate
23 it. The problem was not as extensive. It is a newer plant
24 and so forth. They really tried to work that problem through,
25 which I think is understandable.

1 How big and how many change outs, we are not sure,
2 in the equipment qualification area.

3 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Can I ask you a question in a
4 slightly different vein? Here is a list of issues. Are you
5 implying that all these issues that remain to be resolved
6 before re-start would be considered --

7 MR. DENTON: The way I would characterize it is only
8 Sequoyah do we really have our arms around well enough to say
9 what needs to be done prior to re-start and after re-start.
10 These we put here to show you these are the ones we are
11 working up similar pert charts on, and it is a little too
12 early to tell because TVA hasn't responded on either one, so
13 we don't really have their response to start with. These are
14 the issues we know we will have to address, and we will decide
15 shortly about these, but TVA has asked us to put our first
16 priority on Sequoyah, and that is what we have done. At the
17 same time, we are beginning to compile these things which need
18 to be done on the others.

19 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: On Sequoyah, that is
20 pretty much up in the air until Admiral White comes back with
21 basically his view as well; isn't it? Aren't all those things
22 sort of on hold until he decides whether he is comfortable
23 with the plan and it includes --

24 MR. DENTON: Some are and some aren't. Programs, I
25 think, like EQ, where the inspection is going ahead, where the

1 program is well defined, I think it is where he hasn't defined
2 the program and he wants to be sure he focuses on it.

3 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: I think the answer to Joe's
4 question in part is based on what you just said a few minutes
5 ago, that you don't expect that all of these issues are show
6 stopper issues, because you are saying if you looked at any
7 plant, you would see many such issues as issues requiring
8 resolution. That's why I was trying to get some sense, aside
9 from what is always the big unknown, that is what might come
10 out of the employee concerns, and the resolution of those
11 concerns, what we know today as being show stopper hardware
12 issues, EQ is clearly one at this point.

13 Do we know anything beyond that? It sounds like the
14 answer is no.

15 MR. DENTON: We really haven't focused, as a senior
16 management team, nearly as hard on Browns Ferry and Watts Bar,
17 so I would rather stick on Sequoyah where we do have it all
18 organized. Maybe next month we will have a clear answer. The
19 big thrust has been to get Sequoyah items needed prior to
20 re-start clearly defined.

21 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Let me apply my question then,
22 strictly to Sequoyah. Do these represent the items that need
23 to be dealt with before we could consider re-start?

24 MR. STELLO: Let me see if I can answer that,
25 generally. While there are issues on here, these issues have

1 to "be dealt with." If the question is, does everything have
2 to be completed before start-up on Browns Ferry or any other
3 plant, the answer is typically, if you look at plants, no.

4 We have enough that we are satisfied this is okay
5 for re-start. There are some exceptions, like EQ, where there
6 is a specific regulation. In order to depart from it, you
7 would have to come to the Commission, for sure. Aside from
8 that, there are clearly going to be issues which I fully
9 expect there will be work going on after start-up.

10 I suspect as a general principle, that will apply
11 for all plants. That is in fact the case for all plants. We
12 are satisfied that what needs to be done prior to the re-start
13 or for the operation of the plant when it is finished, but we
14 clearly allow work to be scheduled for the next outage and the
15 next outage.

16 My expectation is when we are finished, we will have
17 a similar situation here. Probably, because of the
18 experience, our reaction will be to draw it somewhat tighter
19 than we might normally do.

20 MR. DENTON: I think we would be inclined to make
21 sure that the plant is put back together right before going
22 into operation, in view of their past history, and not be
23 quite as comfortable with issues still remaining to be done as
24 we might be at a plant that has a good successful performance
25 record.

1 I think in general, Mr. Chairman, they will all have
2 to be considered, but the details on each one, you know, until
3 we meet with TVA and find out what is going on in each one,
4 they will be worked out in detail, but they will all have to
5 be considered.

6 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: I had expected that was true,
7 but I wanted to get it out on the table.

8 One other thing that may be more a question on
9 employee concerns than on other things, but one of the things
10 that I either read or talked about to somebody or heard from
11 somebody, has to do with cable pulling and the stresses that
12 are imposed.

13 Does that come under -- is that an item for
14 Sequoyah?

15 MR. TAYLOR: That is under the employee concerns and
16 in the NSRS report area. That is one of the items that we are
17 going to have to consider. We talked about it in the senior
18 management group. TVA is doing work in that area right now,
19 analysis in that general area. It is a big, broad question.

20 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: That's right. That's why I say
21 employee concerns may bring about a significant additional
22 list of important hardware problems.

23 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: In fact, TVA is still in
24 the process, aren't they, of looking at those thousand limbs
25 to decide which ones are significant and which ones may affect

1 the other plants?

2 MR. THOMPSON: If I could go on to slide seven,
3 which is some rather new information that we did not have last
4 time.

5 [Slide.]

6 MR. THOMPSON: Some resource estimates and summary.
7 For each of the various subelements, we went through and
8 worked with the line organizations and asked for their best
9 estimate of the level of resources it would take to complete
10 the review that was identified for the Sequoyah activity.

11 As you noticed, there was only one of the blocks in
12 the Sequoyah activity which dealt with just the tech spec
13 review, which is kind of the normal activity. These really
14 are essentially above and beyond our normally planned activity
15 for a plant of this nature.

16 The resources, as we calculated them for the
17 technical review, was between 500 and 600 man weeks, through
18 the period of the schedule, which kind of ran through April,
19 up to early May. That breaks down with about 150 for both NRR
20 and I&E and about 300 for Region II, and OI, I think you have
21 been informed, has dedicated six of their investigators full
22 time for the TVA activity.

23 Jim, I think you wanted to add some details on how
24 you see these resources being applied.

25 MR. TAYLOR: We have tried to lay out Sequoyah in

1 greater depth for a couple of reasons. One, we are trying to
2 look at the demands on Region II and the other offices and
3 the other Regions. I would like to show you -- just back-up
4 slide three, please.

5 [Slide.]

6 MR. TAYLOR: You have one of those in front of you.
7 What we are doing is we are taking work that we know we can
8 currently look at and evaluate at Sequoyah, and we are using a
9 scheduling process along the lines that you see here, and the
10 numbers on the bars represent people, man weeks, and dollars
11 that we will be spending through the month of February.

12 I wanted to show you this because there is a number
13 of tasks here that we will be working on during the month of
14 February. This is both Slide three and four.

15 Could we have the next slide, too? Number four,
16 please.

17 [Slide.]

18 MR. TAYLOR: The scheduling at this level of detail
19 is necessary to see how much help we have to provide into the
20 Region, how much help we have to provide from I&E,
21 Headquarters, and the other Regions. This is the level of
22 detail. We are already working on the month of March for
23 Sequoyah. Ultimately, we are going to have to get to this
24 point on plants like Watts Bar and Browns Ferry. Then I will
25 be able to integrate total resources through all the plants on

1 month by month layouts of the work that is going to have to be
2 done. This covers the inspection evaluation, essentially
3 field. This is essentially field work.

4 I have one summary slide. May I have slide five,
5 please.

6 [Slide.]

7 MR. TAYLOR: Just during the month of February, we
8 are going to be averaging each of the remaining weeks, over 20
9 man weeks per week, and spending at the rate of about \$25,000
10 plus per week, just to get off the ground on some of the base
11 work at Sequoyah. This is just the beginning, as I told you,
12 because as rapidly as work will proceed at the other plants,
13 we are going to have to super impose other schedules across
14 our resources. We are getting help already from the other
15 Regions.

16 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: Let me just point out, with
17 the disproportionate magnitude of the effort that is being
18 expended here, you are looking at 500 to 600 man weeks, just
19 for Sequoyah. We aren't talking Watts Bar, Browns Ferry or
20 Bellefonte yet. That is roughly 50 to 60 people full time for
21 a year. If we did that, for every two plants operating today,
22 we would need 25,000 people alone, just for this kind of
23 effort in this Agency. That sort of puts it in perspective.

24 There are two plants down there; right?

25 MR. THOMPSON: Yes.

1 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: You multiply those numbers
2 by 50 and you come up with -- if I am doing the numbers right
3 -- I'm sorry. I slipped one. 2,500 people. You need 2,500
4 people just for the plants we have operating today, just to do
5 this kind of work. That's essentially a little bit less than
6 the entire number of employees in this Agency.

7 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Fortunately, they are not
8 all in this shape.

9 MR. DENTON: Well, we have Toledo Edison, Rancho
10 Seco, San Onofre I that are also eating up our resources.

11 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Let me ask a corollary
12 question. I know we have a lot of effort going on, but are we
13 being sure that we are not spending prematurely effort that
14 has to be redone later? I can see planning. I can see
15 inspection to get information. I'm not quite clear that all
16 of the effort that needs to be put on, needs to be put on in
17 this timeframe.

18 MR. DENTON: This estimate is to complete the
19 activities that we have shown, and until the activity rolls
20 around to be done, it won't be expended. It will have to be
21 expended some time --

22 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Well, this is sort of
23 misleading, when it has dates on it.

24 MR. DENTON: Well, the dates are all subject to
25 TVA's schedules themselves.

1 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: There are some things you would
2 do, even if TVA --

3 MR. DENTON: Yes, that's an attempt to get ahead of
4 the game on things like EQ inspections, where we can do it.

5 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: I think this is an important
6 point, because I get the feeling that we have 50 or 60 people
7 working on it now, whereas maybe that is the feeling that we
8 ought to have, but I think some people are doing planning.
9 There are some people who are doing something else. When they
10 are called on, they will do this piece of work. Getting some
11 field for that would be helpful.

12 MR. STELLO: Mr. Chairman, in a few minutes we will
13 be coming to some slides where you will be able to see very
14 specifically activities that are under way like EQ, where the
15 work has been identified, the rework for the equipment
16 qualification is, in fact, finished and involves inspecting
17 and looking at that work, which is, in fact, ongoing and being
18 done. It is completed work. We know about when it is being
19 done and we are scheduling the people to do it, and it is
20 fairly accurate.

21 With respect to the other issue that was raised as
22 to taking these numbers and starting to multiply them, there
23 is a hazard in that because you recognize that we are going
24 to be going through these issues the first time, which are
25 very difficult and they are hard, but as we do them once, it

1 is still TVA, so that when we finish that issue, it isn't
2 clear to me that you need anywhere near that resource to do it
3 the second and the third and the fourth time. When you have
4 done it once and you know how it is going to be done and it is
5 done the same way, it takes a heck of a lot less effort to do
6 them and there are a lot of similar issues on EQ and welding
7 and other things that are going to come up.

8 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Let me make another comment.

9 With all due respect to Fred's calling attention to
10 the problem, it is a little bit like saying it took us 500 man
11 hours to fight a fire in this tall building and we happen to
12 have 100 tall buildings in the town, and if they are all on
13 fire at once, then we would have to put this kind of effort on
14 there and that would be more than the fire department could
15 stand. But nevertheless, I think there is value in asking the
16 question so we get the effort in perspective.

17 MR. STELLO: I want the Commission clearly to
18 understand that what we are doing is making sure that we get
19 the work done so we don't become critical path. As we know
20 the work is identified, that is what we are doing. We are not
21 trying to get ahead and say here are some things and let's
22 decide how TVA ought to solve them. We are not doing TVA's
23 work. We are doing the work as best we understand it that we
24 know we have got to do.

25 If you give us a few minutes to get to the other

1 slides, you will have concrete, specific examples where you
2 can see the work. It is done, it is a task and a
3 near-completed task, and it has been substantial work. So if
4 you will just let us have a few minutes, we will get to it.

5 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: All right. Well, let's give it
6 a try.

7 MR. DENTON: And we wanted to show you that the work
8 does cost, Mr. Chairman. We always discuss where the resource
9 is coming from, so we will show you where these resources --
10 what they are going to impact based on their line
11 organization's best judgment of where we are going to get
12 them. They are important activities, but I think the staff
13 does feel strained with the number of activities going on that
14 what gets deferred isn't any important items. I would like to
15 just walk through this list.

16 Hugh, do you want to summarize some of the points?

17 [Slide.]

18 MR. THOMPSON: Well, I thought we would identify
19 them and maybe we would have some discussion by the line
20 organization as appropriate. The first one, we have three EQ
21 inspections have been deferred in order to do the special
22 reviews that we have done to date at Sequoyah, and again, as
23 we will have additional reviews at Sequoyah and Watts Bar and
24 Brown's Ferry, additional EQ inspections will be again
25 deferred.

1 This is the case where we have decided that we
2 wanted to have clear assurance that this issue was
3 appropriately addressed and have done a more thorough review
4 and audit of the documentation. And one of the other problems
5 we found was in the original visit we made, the documentation
6 wasn't in appropriate shape for us to do it, so we had to go
7 back again.

8 So that's a clear example of an activity that had to
9 be deferred at other plants to be able to support that
10 activity.

11 The next scheduled CAT inspection has been
12 deferred. That was for Beaver Valley 2. These resources are
13 now being made available.

14 Jim?

15 MR. TAYLOR: Well, I am foreseeing that we may not
16 be able to do any further CAT inspections, certainly not this
17 year, and we did South Texas a few months ago, and they have
18 just gotten that report out and they are doing Palo Verde. We
19 had planned to go into Beaver Valley as our next one. But it
20 looks like those resources that are available in headquarters
21 that can supplement, they are inspector trained plus
22 contractor trained for inspection resources, that we are
23 definitely going to have to use those in the TVA system.

24 So I foresee no way of handling this workload
25 without taking those resources and essentially stopping that

1 type of inspection.

2 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Is that a money problem or
3 I&E staffing problem or a combination?

4 MR. TAYLOR: It's trained people. Just money
5 shoveled in wouldn't solve the problem alone. We have had
6 essentially some of the contractors working with us who have
7 been with us for quite some time, so it is a trained --

8 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: So scarce resources, and
9 you have to use them where -- unfortunately, Beaver Valley
10 could probably use that CAT.

11 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: That is the point. It is
12 hard for me to see how you can justify pulling resources from
13 other plants that are under construction to try and fix
14 something that you know, is a problem that another Federal
15 agency 30,000 strong got itself into. We have got a lot of
16 other utilities out there, a lot of other plants under
17 construction, and I'm not sure that it makes sense for us not
18 to do any more construction appraisals on those plants the
19 rest of the year.

20 Is that what I just heard?

21 MR. STELLO: No, no, no.

22 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: No, no. How many do you do a
23 year, three or four? He has already done two, he said. He
24 has already done two.

25 MR. TAYLOR: We just finished --

1 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: You are going to go from
2 four to two?

3 MR. TAYLOR: Yes.

4 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: The rest of this fiscal
5 year? Well, let's put it this way. When is the next time we
6 will have the resources to do another CAT?

7 MR. TAYLOR: I don't know.

8 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: And it is going to depend on
9 how the Commission finally comes down.

10 MR. TAYLOR: It really depends on how much
11 inspection --

12 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Please let me finish the
13 sentence. It will depend on how the Commission decides it is
14 going to distribute the funds that we have, the resources we
15 have.

16 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: I don't doubt that, but what
17 I'm pointing out is this is the kind of problem that can
18 snowball. These plants are already built except for -- well,
19 sorry, Watts Bar isn't and Bellefonte, but a number of them
20 are already built. Five units are. There are a lot of other
21 plants building out there, and one wonders why we shouldn't be
22 seeking outside help in some of the appraisals down there.

23 I'm just not sure that --

24 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Well, the Staff is trying to
25 tell you what it's costing. We may not agree that we want to

1 proceed on this particular tack, but I think something has to
2 give in order to do this or we tell them don't do what they
3 are proposing.

4 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: That's right.

5 MR. STELLO: Yes. But there is a very important
6 point, I think, to make, and that is we do know that these
7 plants have significant problems we have to deal with. Now,
8 where ought you to put your resources? You ought to put your
9 resources where you see the significant problems exist.
10 That's what we do. And we are, in fact, in the process -- and
11 I hope in the very near future we are going to start backing
12 off where we are spending a lot of inspection on facilities
13 that are doing very well and it is time to back off on those.

14 You should be asking the other question, why do we
15 continue to go out and inspect facilities where things are
16 going well? We shouldn't be doing that. That should be a
17 benefit, quite frankly, to the utility who is doing well so we
18 aren't out there harassing them with inspections and we can
19 clearly pull off and back off from those inspections and start
20 using some of those resources.

21 Now, we are going to be doing that. We have got to
22 make the judgment and bring it to you as to how best we see
23 it, but our criteria -- while I couldn't spell them all out, I
24 will take the first one. Let's put our resources where we
25 know we have got a problem. That's what we are doing.

1 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: Well, look, I don't disagree
2 with any of that. What I am saying, the point I am trying to
3 make is that if you want to look for what I see as a
4 regulatory breakdown around here, look at Zimmer and Midland,
5 The plants that we didn't know they had a problem until it was
6 too late. And if we aren't going to do the kind of appraisals
7 in time to know in time that they have a serious problem, my
8 concern is that we will end up with other Zimmers and
9 Midlands. That is just a catastrophic loss to everybody, to
10 the general public.

11 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: You may have one of those
12 here, but we don't know yet.

13 MR. DENTON: Well, let us hit the other impacts
14 because it's not only this one. We just wanted to show that
15 any time we divert 40 of our top people into that problem
16 area, they come off of --

17 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: That is the point.

18 MR. STELLO: You could help me to make one more
19 point, and maybe it is Criterion 2. If there is a facility
20 and it is not being constructed well, please don't point to
21 NRC and say it's NRC's fault. It's the utility's fault. They
22 are responsible for constructing them right. You can't expect
23 this staff with its resources to say we are going to stop
24 that. We do the best we can. But if it, in fact, is fouled
25 up, you have got to look, and the Licensee is who ought to get

1 the blame for it, not us.

2 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: Look. I don't disagree with
3 that. I don't want to lapse into regulatory breakdown
4 language, but it's a breakdown in government and governmental
5 responsibility when somehow you have plants that are 90 or 95
6 percent completed that end up rusting in the field. We have
7 got three of them now. Not to say it is all our fault, by a
8 long shot.

9 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Well, I think we are getting
10 off the subject, in a sense. We may not agree with some of
11 the things that they are proposing to defer in order to meet
12 the TVA requirements. Then this will come out in the
13 discussion. We may also conclude after we hear it all that
14 maybe we want a different balance in the amount of effort we
15 put on these various activities.

16 MR. STELLO: Mr. Chairman, I don't want to belabor
17 this point, but it has hit a very strong nerve of mine, that
18 too often this Agency is always looked for as being who is
19 responsible because that valve didn't work or that pipe
20 cracked or that steam generator is fouled up, and we always
21 seem to be held accountable and responsible. We do not
22 operate, we do not construct them, we do not design it. Those
23 are not our responsibilities. We as regulators do the best we
24 can to assure that that doesn't happen.

25 In the case of TVA, that has been done. There

1 hasn't been an accident or an incident in that plant. I don't
2 see how we can be held accountable for what TVA did. In fact,
3 I would say this is, in a sense, a regulatory success. These
4 plants were --

5 CHAIRMAN BERNTHAL: Well, you are preaching to the
6 choir. I don't disagree with a bit of that.

7 MR. STELLO: Well, I think it needs to be said more
8 often because we seem to always get the blame.

9 MR. THOMPSON: Your point is well taken.

10 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: I am sympathetic to the point.
11 I believe maybe we ought to go on with seeing what we are
12 going to do to cope with this situation.

13 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Yes, we should go on. I
14 agree. This issue will be addressed later.

15 MR. THOMPSON: Two more important I&E activities
16 that are being deferred at this time are two small-scale PAT
17 inspections and initiation of the third safety system outage
18 modification inspection are being deferred indefinitely.

19 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Well, one of the problems I
20 have with this chart is it sounds as though they are being
21 deferred in the TVA case, or are you referring to other
22 things?

23 MR. THOMPSON: We are referring to others, not the
24 TVA, and those resources are being applied to support the
25 headquarters and the region review of the TVA activities and

1 inspection efforts.

2 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Where were the two PATs
3 going to be?

4 MR. TAYLOR: We have not scheduled those yet. We
5 have been doing small-scale PATs. We did one, for example, in
6 the area of surveillance at D.C. Cook, had some significant
7 issues and findings and surveillances they weren't doing
8 properly. But we have not scheduled. That was part of our
9 plan for the next six months, to do that.

10 The Commission has mandated a PAT at Three Mile, and
11 we are going to do that. That is coming up.

12 MR. THOMPSON: The regional inspection program is
13 currently under evaluation for the activities that may need to
14 be reevaluated and rescheduled there.

15 John, did you want to add any specifics with respect
16 to that effort?

17 MR. OLSHINKSY: Yes, I did want to talk about that a
18 little bit.

19 The schedule for the Region has been generally
20 impacted. That's why you don't see specifics on the Region as
21 they impact here. Our biggest general impact of this is our
22 engineering support activities and the briefings that have
23 been effected. We have tried to not affect the resident
24 programs from the other sites, and so far have been successful
25 in doing that, in keeping the resident programs at the other

1 sites fully employed at their sites.

2 But our engineering support from the Region
3 typically goes out to all the plants, and of course, that is
4 very concentrated right now at TVA, and as a result, we are
5 deferring some inspections, taking the schedule out longer.
6 We are going to move the schedule out on licensing actions,
7 for instance, on licensee event reports and on event
8 follow-up. We are doing less of that at the other sites than
9 we had done before, and mainly relying our our resident staff
10 there.

11 So that is the impact so far.

12 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Are you differentiating,
13 though, as Vic suggested, in terms of performance so that you
14 are not taking emphasis away from places like Turkey Point?

15 MR. OLSHINKSY: Very much so. Turkey Point is one
16 of our higher priority activities in Region 2 and will
17 continue to be.

18 MR. THOMPSON: In NRR, some of the activities that
19 have been impacted, for instance, are project managements for
20 the Beaver Valley 2 project and the Callaway project have been
21 reassigned to the TVA activities full time, and the new
22 project manager hired to support some of the Comanche Peak
23 effort to replace one who had retired will be assigned to the
24 TVA activities. That means we will have less project
25 management capability for those plants in the foreseeable

1 future.

2 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Does that give you a
3 project manager, in essence, for each of the TVA units?

4 MR. DENTON: At least one. Maybe Tom Novak -- all
5 these impacts are Westinghouse --

6 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Per unit, though, you
7 would you have one?

8 MR. NOVAK: Currently we have two project managers
9 assigned to each of the three sites, Sequoyah, Watts Bar and
10 Brown's Ferry. And as Hugh mentioned, when we moved some
11 people, we tried to make the best choice. Where we had a
12 Beaver Valley 1 project manager as an OL, we assigned the
13 Beaver Valley 2 PM to TVA and then asked the Beaver Valley 1
14 PM to pick it up.

15 But that does represent a major activity because
16 there are a lot of or a number of outstanding open items yet
17 to be resolved on Beaver Valley 2. One example, for instance,
18 is the leak-before-break application on the part of Duquesne.
19 Now, this place is a special effort on the part of that single
20 person now handling both units.

21 In the case of Callaway, because it was a SNUPPS
22 plant, we assigned that activity to the Wolf Creek project
23 manager. Now, in this case things are not as difficult and we
24 are able to carry it for a certain period of time.

25 The role of the project manager, though, is

1 affected. He is not able to be in as many places as he would
2 like to be.

3 MR. THOMPSON: Likewise, in our technical review
4 activities, when a new item comes up before the review as
5 these are scheduled, these will impact or delay some important
6 plant specifics, and it is hard to identify specifically which
7 ones until it comes up, but they would be, for instance, on
8 reevaluating operation and organization and management. These
9 things are very important to a utility, but they are things
10 that don't have to be done at a specific time. Likewise, it
11 could be operational flexibility. The plant can operate
12 without some tech spec modifications to that.

13 And other things such as the Westinghouse standard
14 reactor design, or even some of the standard tech spec
15 activities would be impacted on that.

16 And, of course, in my own case I think I feel very
17 dear to the last one, selected senior staff members, not only
18 -- I think John also joins me, I believe. There are some in
19 I&E that had been dedicated full time -- excuse me.

20 Mr. Stello was looking at me.

21 MR. STELLO: And they enjoy every minute of it.

22 [Laughter.]

23 MR. THOMPSON: But these are some of the impacts
24 that have occurred, and they are real and they are ones that
25 we wanted to identify to the Commission, what is needed

1 to support the effort that we have identified today.

2 MR. DENTON: We wanted to get it on the table, and
3 we think that is the effort required to support the Sequoyah
4 activities. And if they are not the ones you desire, now is
5 the time to let us know. But they reflect each line's choice
6 of what to do in order to do what the senior management team
7 thinks needs to be carried out on Sequoyah.

8 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: Let me just ask a question
9 this way. I am trying to get at this several different ways.

10 I am concerned at the proportionate -- the correct
11 proportion of resources to go to this particular problem.
12 Just very roughly speaking, as the senior managers in this
13 agency, what fraction -- I know what you say about
14 person-weeks or whatever, but given all the time that you all
15 are devoting to this problem right now, if somebody asked for
16 a rough estimate of how much of your time and attention this
17 is going to demand in the next six months, what percentage,
18 what would you say?

19 MR. DENTON: I think it has been demanding about 25
20 percent of each of our time for the last several months, I'd
21 say.

22 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Whose time? Yours?

23 MR. DENTON: Maybe not counting Ben's.

24 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Whose? Yours?

25 MR. DENTON: Mine and Jim's and John's. We meet

1 extensively at least twice a week, sometimes more often, to
2 review what the Staff has found in these areas, and I think in
3 view of the situation down there, it's appropriate right now.
4 But it does mean that we are giving less time to other
5 activities that are going on, and I hope it doesn't go on for
6 much longer, and I look forward to TVA coming out with a plan
7 that is comprehensive and looks more like the Davis-Besse
8 approach, where they are going to take the ball and solve
9 these problems.

10 But in order to get moving from where we were
11 previously up until now has taken this sort of management
12 involvement. So I'd say it's over -- well, a day and a half
13 per week of my time directly in meetings with all the people
14 involved.

15 MR. STELLO: I don't debate the estimate that Harold
16 has offered you as proper. I'm probably spending about that
17 myself. But I think each of us recognizes that we have our
18 jobs to do, and that becomes an occasion when it's above and
19 beyond the call, and this is clearly above and beyond the
20 call, and it takes that extra effort. As professionals, I
21 think the Staff is prepared to put that extra effort in. And
22 this is not unusual. We have done this many, many times in
23 the past where we, you know -- it just isn't 40 hours; it
24 isn't eight to five, and as professionals, I think everybody
25 understands that.

1 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: Well, that's not the point.
2 Harold has said that this has been going on for several
3 months, and the question is, as I look at this list that
4 you've got, we've got a lot more months, unless I miss my
5 guess here.

6 And these are five plants. We have got twenty
7 plants to license during the next two years. That's the
8 concern.

9 MR. STELLO: Nine plants. Nine. Nine TVA plants.

10 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: Five plants shut down.

11 MR. STELLO: Well, altogether, though, the plants
12 that we're involved, Watts Barr is not yet operating, and
13 that's taking a considerable amount of time, too, but there
14 are nine total. And if you look at that, that's nearly 10
15 percent of the plants that we've got, and if you wanted to say
16 that roughly it ought to take 10 percent of the agency's
17 resources, it's probably getting something in excess of 10
18 percent of them.

19 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: You touched on something else I
20 was going to ask. Percentages don't tell you the whole story,
21 because if your average work week is 60 hours, and you are
22 working 80, and out of that you get your 20 percent, it's a
23 different answer from saying you are working a 40 or 60 hours
24 and getting your 20 percent.

25 So I think that the dedication of the Staff is

1 something we should appreciate, because I know what's going
2 on.

3 MR. DENTON: For example, in the welding area, we
4 have taken one of our best Branch Chiefs and devoted him
5 full-time to this welding issue. So he's been pulled out of
6 his normal job and is putting in every week on this issue.

7 I think our expectation is, once we get the criteria
8 and programs reviewed and approved that TVA is proposing, then
9 the level of management involvement can back off, and it
10 becomes a case of monitoring the implementation. But it's
11 taking a lot of effort because of the unique nature of many of
12 these employee concern issues, especially to get up and make
13 sure with the criteria and what's going on.

14 It might be helpful to go through the three examples
15 we pulled out to show you a bit how those three are going, and
16 we have specific manpower estimates in those three areas where
17 we have a little slice of activity.

18 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Let's do that. But let me make
19 another comment.

20 With regard to these points that you have on the
21 slide that talks about the impact of TVA effort on the Staff,
22 I would suggest that Commissioners look at it, and as they
23 develop reactions to it, it ought to be fed to the Commission,
24 and I would appreciate receiving them, so that we can get them
25 to the Staff, okay.

1 Do you want to go ahead?

2 MR. STELLO: Well, let me include, though, you
3 recognize that these are the areas that we have judged to be
4 the right things to do, based on everything that we know of,
5 so we have consciously looked and tried to make sure that we
6 did our best to minimize, to the extent that we could, the
7 impacts, and this is, indeed, our best judgment right now.

8 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: And I was working from that
9 assumption. But nevertheless, if there are comments to the
10 extent that we should redirect something, we should get it
11 back. But I would like to get them so we can coordinate
12 them. Meanwhile, I would suggest that the Staff go ahead on
13 the assumptions it has made.

14 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Right. I think Vic's
15 point is a good one, though. They are the people who are
16 closest to it, and I think we have to give weight to their
17 judgment on this. I don't think any of us are happy about at
18 least some, if not all, of those items being deferred, but
19 it's a fact of life that nothing comes free.

20 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Well, that's why I say they
21 should go ahead on their assumptions. Only if we have
22 someplace that we feel we want to add our two cents in should
23 the thing be changed.

24 [Slide.]

25 MR. THOMPSON: This is one where the Office of

1 Inspection and Enforcement has the lead.

2 Jim, do you want to --

3 MR. TAYLOR: This has been proceeding. We've talked
4 a little bit about it before. We're up at the point where
5 about something over 70 of the 96 packages are done. There is
6 still some work, minor work, in about 20 more of those
7 packages being done out in the field at Sequoyah. And then
8 there are about five or six that are tied up in some of the
9 cable work that's going on.

10 This effort is coming together quite well for our
11 Staff. The Staff will be back next week, for most of next
12 week, and then we figure a very small effort in final
13 follow-up may be necessary sometime later in February, and
14 that's the way we scheduled it out on that bar chart I showed
15 you.

16 At the bottom is a summary of what we expended and
17 what we expect to expend on the Sequoyah effort, and this is
18 strictly on the environmental qualification reviews.

19 MR. THOMPSON: And this is one, again, where I think
20 the TVA program that we have seen today, as they have revised
21 it, is pretty first-rate and one where we are pleased with the
22 progress they are making, although there still are other
23 issues that need to be resolved.

24 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Your conclusion about no
25 major programmatic deficiencies applies to this corrected

1 program?

2 MR. TAYLOR: Yes. It's the corrected program.

3 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Because there clearly were
4 programmatic deficiencies before.

5 MR. DENTON: It's a case where we are putting in far
6 more resources than the normal EQ area. We decided to make a
7 100-percent review of the documentation in these packages and
8 spent a lot of time looking at that and a far greater sample
9 of the implementation, because we felt the last thing we want
10 to see happen is the plant return to operation and then find
11 another EQ problem.

12 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Right.

13 MR. DENTON: So we're going the extra mile here, and
14 it's taking resources to make sure that doesn't happen.

15 MR. STELLO: And this is an excellent example where
16 we didn't sit back and wait. When we knew there were
17 problems, we went in, we looked, we identified them, they've
18 gotten corrected, the equipment is now being modified and
19 being put back into the plant and tested. So it's a typical
20 example.

21 You can argue whether you are crossing this line, as
22 to whether we're doing TVA's work. It's not. We have to
23 eventually make that judgment, and we want to make sure that
24 we make it early enough to avoid impacting them
25 unnecessarily. And we've done that.

1 MR. THOMPSON: The next two issues deal with areas
2 for which NRR has the lead responsibility, and Tom Novak, who
3 is the Acting Division Director for the PWR Licensing A Group,
4 has the presentation for that.

5 [Slide.]

6 MR. NOVAK: With regard to employee concerns, that
7 number, over 4000, is really, in fact, reaching 5000 as of
8 today, so we are talking about a large number of employee
9 concerns as of the end of January.

10 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Are they still coming in?

11 MR. NOVAK: They are coming in. For example,
12 with the new program initiated at Sequoyah, there is something
13 on the order of 20 employee concerns that have been registered
14 with the TVA Employee Concern Program, to give you a feeling
15 for that.

16 MR. THOMPSON: But part of that, you understand,
17 they do exit interviews of everybody that leaves, so you would
18 expect the process to generate -- you know, they have finished
19 their initial process of having the people onsite, these
20 mandatory walkthroughs that --

21 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: At Watts Barr.

22 MR. THOMPSON: At Watts Barr, right.

23 MR. DENTON: One point I want to make before we
24 begin is, our comments on the Employee Concern Program is
25 applied to the program that was in place when we were down

1 there reviewing it. You know, it may be changed by Mr. White,
2 and we're awaiting his views on that. So our comments apply
3 to the program that was in place at the time we audited it.

4 MR. NOVAK: Of the 5000 concerns, approximately 300
5 have been considered to be applicable to Sequoyah, and that
6 300 is broken down as follows:

7 200 of them were judged to be applicable to Sequoyah
8 because they were a generic issue. A welding concern could
9 have fallen in as applicable to Sequoyah because it was
10 generic in nature. And then about 100 concerns were described
11 as being more or less plant-specific to Sequoyah.

12 Now to date, the Staff has conducted several
13 inspections of the program that TVA initiated, and we are
14 satisfied with that program programmatically. We have made
15 comments on it. TVA has adopted those comments, and we will
16 be writing to them this week approving, in a sense, the
17 program that they have had in place up to date.

18 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Well, depending on what
19 they do to change it, though, you may have to go back and take
20 a fresh look.

21 MR. NOVAK: They have agreed to make those changes,
22 and if they are done appropriately, we would have no problem
23 with the program in place today.

24 Now with regard to what we are doing with these
25 employee concerns, all safety-related employee concerns -- and

1 that's a number on the order of 1600 or so -- are transmitted
2 to us. Now they would come in in what we have referred to as
3 K Forms. That's the first description of the concern.

4 All of those concerns come to the Staff, and we have
5 contracted with Franklin Research, and they are effectively
6 developing a database, and they are taking each of these
7 employee concerns, once they have been described as being
8 safety-related, and they are putting them in the database, and
9 then they are keyword indexing them, and they are adding that
10 data to all of the allegations that the Staff has received.

11 For example, there are about 20 allegations
12 regarding Sequoyah, and so that subject matter is going into
13 that same database. And then the Staff has also asked
14 Franklin to read the NSRS reports, and specific
15 recommendations from those NSRS reports are going into the
16 database.

17 Then when you ask for a search, if you ask for a
18 listing of welding and then welding and then certifications,
19 some sub-keyword, you will get a printout not just from the
20 employee concern, but everything that went into that
21 database. And we think this will be very effective for us in
22 completing our reviews.

23 Now the other thing the Franklin people will be
24 doing for us, they'll be reading all of the investigations.
25 Now this is the second stage of what TVA does with a concern.

1 They study it; they go out into the field, and they write up
2 an investigation. That is being put into it.

3 Now what we've asked Franklin Research to do is, by
4 the subject matter, tie it to certain elements of our Standard
5 Review Plans, so that we can properly assign these employee
6 concerns or NSRS issues to the right people on the Staff. And
7 we think that will really reduce the times that we'd have to
8 go back over and question a decision, because we'll be using
9 all of the data that's available on that subject.

10 Now what we plan to do still is to go back to the
11 Sequoyah sites and do more inspections of their
12 investigations, because that is still the area that most work
13 has to be accomplished on right now by TVA, is to look at how
14 they investigated these concerns. And then we would also
15 follow up on how they attempt to resolve that issue, as to
16 whether it will be done before or after restart.

17 MR. DENTON: I think in view of time, what we're
18 saying is, we've looked at the criteria by which they have
19 developed and documented the concerns and the criteria by
20 which they propose to identify whether they are safety-related
21 or non-safety, how they looked at generic. We're satisfied
22 with the criteria that were in use at the time we were there.

23 So we have made a lot of progress on this, but TVA
24 still has a lot of work, and there's a lot of these concerns
25 still within their system, still being investigated and

1 resolved.

2 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: But I take it, you are
3 going to look at both aspects, both the program itself, which
4 you have taken a look at, and you are going to also look at
5 how TVA is actually implementing them, and not just relying on
6 the fact that they've got a program.

7 MR. DENTON: All we are reporting on today is
8 looking at the criteria in place and the system, and I think
9 somewhat like EQ, we are satisfied that have the system in
10 place and that it's a system that can work. It was in place,
11 and it may still be.

12 MR. NOVAK: Jim, as a final note, under the TVA
13 actions remaining, thus far of the investigations that they
14 have completed, about a half of them require some sort of
15 corrective action. So there is that avenue to be followed
16 through yet, and that will be substantial.

17 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: When you say "corrective
18 action," hardware corrective action?

19 MR. NOVAK: It may be hardware. It may be procedure
20 changes. It may be additional training.

21 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: So they are still proving
22 out at about a 50 percent rate, that half of them are valid?

23 MR. NOVAK: It may be, yes. May I have the next
24 slide?

25 [Slide.]

1 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: I expect there is quite a
2 spectrum of corrective actions that need to be taken.

3 MR. NOVAK: On the welding issue, as Harold noted
4 earlier, Dr. Lea is heading up the entire welding program for
5 the staff. Unfortunately, he is ill today and can't join us.

6 I will just summarize what is going on. Again, out
7 of the employee concerns, almost 500 concerns were identified
8 as being related to welding. That's the data base that we
9 start from.

10 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: It is 500, not 50?

11 MR. THOMPSON: No. That's 50 for Sequoyah and about
12 500 total. Just to save a little time here, the emphasis that
13 we are placing is that these concerns describe a certain
14 issue. There is a certain problem or issue that we feel needs
15 to be addressed. What we are looking at is in a sense
16 collating these concerns into separate issues. There are
17 roughly about seven or eight different issues that need to be
18 addressed as part of the welding concern.

19 I have listed kind of the four under here. What we
20 are trying to do next is look at specifically TVA's welding
21 inspection plan for Sequoyah. We think that is fundamental,
22 what they are going to go back in and look at as a
23 re-inspection. We have made one visit to the site. We looked
24 at the administrative review they did. They went back and
25 looked at a lot of the certifications of welds. They have

1 looked at the in-service inspections that have been performed
2 at Sequoyah. We looked at that end of it.

3 We also looked at their re-inspections. We have
4 thus far found that to be an adequate program. I think we are
5 cautiously pleased with the effort thus far. We will be going
6 back down again this month, as is mentioned here, and the NDE
7 van will also be going down the end of February.

8 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Tom, it is a little
9 unclear to me how the welding issues at Sequoyah fit in with
10 the welding issues at Watts Bar, and how you can say what you
11 just said about the confidence in the program, going ahead on
12 Sequoyah. For example, the standards and criteria that are
13 going to be applied. Is there now agreement on the part of
14 the staff and TVA that you now have agreed that what codes or
15 standards ought to be applied and what criteria should be used
16 in evaluating whether the welding work was done adequately?

17 It seems to me you need that --

18 MR. NOVAK: Well, let me go back. What I wanted to
19 say earlier is that from our review of welding concerns, they
20 generally fall into various categories. We have termed those
21 categories to be issues. There are certain technical issues
22 that need to be addressed. Your example is a good issue.

23 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: That's one of them; right?

24 MR. NOVAK: Yes. What we have seen thus far, even
25 though there are almost 500 welding concerns for TVA and 50

1 for Sequoyah, we don't see that order of magnitude as more
2 issues being raised by the welding concerns at Watts Bar.
3 They generally are all of the same nature. You may have ten
4 people in one site saying that's the problem and a fewer
5 number at Sequoyah, let's say.

6 What we are really looking at is to see that the
7 issues that are raised are going to be addressed both at
8 Sequoyah as well as Watts Bar.

9 We will have to look further at the level, but
10 certainly the issue itself, we feel, is probably generic to
11 both sites.

12 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: I guess the question I
13 have, and it may be that B.D. needs to address this when he
14 gets back or whatever, but if one of the questions, as I
15 understand it, is what standards were applied for the welding
16 work and did they change back and forth on the standards, did
17 they adjust them. It seems to me you need to reach agreement
18 on what the standards should be and what criteria you are
19 going to use for accepting the welding work.

20 Second, you need to decide whether that same kind of
21 practice went on at Sequoyah that apparently went on at Watts
22 Bar. Is that to be done before TVA is sending in a team to do
23 re-inspections? Do those people that are doing the work for
24 them know what it is they are looking for? Do they know what
25 it is they are inspecting against, and do we have confidence

1 that they understand that and that they are right?

2 MR. DENTON: I think there has been a lot of work in
3 that area, Commissioner. We don't have B.D. here today.
4 Remember, we hired a team of consultants to advise us, just in
5 those areas of codes. My understanding is there has been a
6 lot of progress made between the staff and TVA on the
7 criteria.

8 Dave Smith is here. He may want to comment.

9 MR. SMITH: I'm Dave Smith. I work for B.D.

10 On the part of the standards and codes which were
11 originally called for, which we would say were with the FSAR
12 commitments and with which we granted the license.

13 In each of the plants, TVA has set up their phase
14 one and phase two. Phase one is what we sort of like to
15 describe as a paper chase, sort of administrative check to
16 follow from the FSAR commitments through their generic
17 in-house fabrication control documents. They have all sorts
18 of numbers, and things like that. They follow those to their
19 drawings to see that the commitments and requirements of the
20 codes and everything else followed down to the final piece of
21 equipment.

22 They are specifically addressing that in phase one.
23 The phase one effort has been completed at Sequoyah. We have
24 not seen their report yet.

25 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: That will tell you whether

1 they changed from the original FSAR commitment and if so,
2 where the work was done under a different standard?

3 MR. SMITH: Yes, sir.

4 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Then you get to phase two.

5 MR. SMITH: Right. They are into phase two now.

6 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: What does that tell you?

7 MR. SMITH: Phase two involves basically one,
8 Bechtel at Sequoyah is reviewing things like the welders'
9 qualifications, maintenance of qualifications, inspectors'
10 maintenance of qualifications, weld rod control, the paper
11 that reflects that the work was done and that there was a
12 continuous path of everything, that the requirements are
13 consistently being met. That is the Bechtel audit, which is
14 strictly again a paper thing.

15 When they had their presentation to us on January
16 7th, we, the staff, suggested and they implemented, a
17 re-inspection plan of looking physically at the welds. We
18 concentrated or they concentrated on the systems which did not
19 have that much attention in the original construction. In
20 other words, we stayed away from Class I and Class II, ASME
21 class systems, because they obviously have a lot of
22 attention. We concentrated on Class 3 and un-Class systems,
23 like the AISC design supports.

24 We selected six categories or groups, one of which
25 was piping. They went through those and selected various

1 systems. CCW was one that I remember. There were both
2 stainless and carbon steel systems. In each one -- that is
3 that one group. They looked at a minimum of 100 welds in that
4 group. In each of the five other groups, they looked at at
5 least 100 welds. They have done more than that. That is the
6 physical re-inspection of welds which are to address sort of
7 like the generic type of concern.

8 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: When they do the physical
9 inspection, are they assuming the weld has to be adequate to
10 meet the original FSAR commitment and to verify the work was
11 done in a way that satisfied the original FSAR commitment?

12 MR. SMITH: No. They are doing it to the drawing.

13 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: If you finished phase one
14 and phase one shows they changed the FSAR commitment and they
15 did something that was unacceptable, then there is going to
16 have to be another program to go back --

17 MR. SMITH: We are awaiting the results of that. We
18 don't know that. Yes, that's true.

19 MR. DENTON: I think it is somewhat like the EQ
20 area. We approved basically a program and we have commented
21 on the program. They are implementing it. It remains to be
22 seen what really gets found.

23 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: My concern was they were
24 doing this inspection program on the physical welds only for
25 us to find out later on that whatever standard they were using

1 wasn't the standard in the original FSAR commitment, either
2 for Watts Bar or for Sequoyah.

3 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: You have to inspect against the
4 drawing. I don't know how you can inspect against an FSAR.

5 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Yes, but if the drawing is
6 wrong --

7 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Then that's another problem.

8 MR. STELLO: My understanding is they are following
9 the FSAR commitments. In at least some of the instances, I
10 think on the structure welding, they are also going to use the
11 more stringent, latest standard, in terms of looking at welds
12 at all.

13 COMMISSIONER ROBERTS: Wait a minute. That is
14 different. The ASME code gets periodically revised. If they
15 built it to a certain --

16 MR. STELLO: I said ASW, the structure welding code,
17 AWS.

18 COMMISSIONER ROBERTS: I don't see how you can hold
19 them to --

20 MR. STELLO: No, no. We are not holding them. They
21 have indicated they are going to be in that case, as I
22 understand it, using both. If the more stringent one would
23 apply, they are. When I was walking through the plant, I was
24 really impressed at some of the interpretations they had.
25 They are really being very, very liberal in terms of

1 interpreting welding.

2 There is one particular weld that had a very tiny
3 splatter on it. They identified it as something that needed
4 to be repaired because that specifically was part of a code
5 commitment and there is a certain distance away from the weld
6 where you can or cannot strike an arc. Their interpretation
7 is very, very strict and very conservative, based on what I
8 saw down there.

9 Please don't understand that we have told them to do
10 that. That's what they have come up with, their own program.
11 This is what they are doing, not what we have said. This has
12 nothing to do in terms of -- we would have been satisfied had
13 they lived with the commitments. That would have been enough
14 for us. It appears they are very, very conservative. From my
15 visit at the plant, I was very impressed at how conservative,
16 at things that looked perfectly all right, they are
17 identifying them to go back.

18 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: One could get carried away with
19 that approach.

20 MR. STELLO: That is their call. I would not want
21 to be in a position to have the NRC go and tell you, you are
22 going too far. That is their call.

23 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: No, I agree. I can't help the
24 observation that sometimes one can go too far.

25 MR. STELLO: Sometimes that is true. There is an

1 over reaction and they will go -- this is not the first time.

2 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: However, if they begin to
3 perceive they have to go that far to satisfy us, then I think
4 some dialogue is necessary.

5 MR. STELLO: Yes, and I think they understand that.

6 MR. DENTON: I think we are approaching it though in
7 the same manner we are approaching all the areas. They
8 propose a program and criteria, we meet and agree on that,
9 then they go implement it and we audit the implementation.

10 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Do you have more?

11 MR. SMITH: Yes. In the welding, which is the
12 structural welding, which was originally designed and built to
13 AISC, which imposes AWS D1.1, which is the structural steel
14 welding code, if you read the code -- it's very critical in
15 certain insignificant details, which the industry formed a
16 group called the Nuclear Construction Issues Group. Welding
17 was, of course, one of those things where there were a lot of
18 problems. This has been recent.

19 They came up with another set of criteria which is
20 allowed within D1.1. D1.1 says the engineer can -- I don't
21 want to say pretty much do whatever he wants -- he can
22 evaluate and justify other sources of criteria, other levels
23 of criteria. The Nuclear Construction Issues Group did that.
24 They issued a document which we have accepted.

25 Many plants had also gone down their own path and

1 had alternate criteria to D1 1. Some were minor changes.
2 Some were very extensive. We have accepted the Nuclear
3 Construction Issues Group's standard because it was a
4 standardization. It is also probably more stringent than the
5 most commonly used alternatives to criteria in D1.1, which was
6 by Bechtel Corporation.

7 TVA is using the NCIG criteria when they do their
8 physical re-inspections. What it does do is it eliminates
9 what would be called a rejection for minor, insignificant
10 defects, that would have been reportable under D1.1.

11 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: They may not be meeting
12 the standard they committed to in the FSAR, but if they
13 aren't, what they are testing against is a standard you have
14 accepted?

15 MR. SMITH: Correct.

16 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Okay.

17 MR. NOVAK: Just two quick remarks on this slide --

18 MR. DENTON: I think we probably have covered it,
19 Tom. We will say more about it in time.

20 I have put together a conclusion slide. I think we
21 have hit all the points in the course of the briefing that I
22 wanted to make, mainly that this project is receiving the top
23 priority that the Commission asked us to put on it. It has
24 had extensive involvement by all your offices. We have made a
25 lot of progress on Sequoyah. We have work to be done on the

1 other plants.

2 There is going to be a significant staff effort
3 required in the next few months. Finally, and I think the
4 most important part here, TVA is re-evaluating their effort
5 and no schedules are available. We will then tailor our
6 actions, depending on what sort of information we receive in
7 the next few weeks from TVA.

8 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Thank you very much. Any more?

9 MR. STELLO: No, that concludes it. We have to say,
10 Mr. Chairman, and I hope we have persuaded the Commission,
11 that we are in fact on top of the issues as we know them, and
12 we are not going to be in a position of holding up review of
13 TVA. Anything that is needed, we are prepared to do to the
14 best of our ability to accommodate it, so that when they are
15 ready, we will be ready.

16 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: One comment I might make. I
17 know it is a challenge to us. There is a lot to be done. I
18 presume you are giving attention to making sure that the staff
19 power is put on when it is most usable and not just on there
20 so that we can get ahead with a plan, unless it is part of
21 your thought process.

22 We have got to be careful on all of these things
23 that we react appropriately, but we have to guard against over
24 reacting also, as well.

25 Let me ask one question. How does the staff intend

1 to advise TVA regarding their many concerns and how they are
2 to be resolved, or if they need to be resolved before
3 re-start?

4 MR. DENTON: We are doing that after every time we
5 interact with TVA. On every item, we give them a verbal exit
6 interview or discussion, on what we think before we leave that
7 inspection or before we leave that safety review meeting, and
8 then we follow it up in writing. The conclusions are coming
9 through the senior management team on the critical issues.

10 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Could I have a list of the
11 issues, for example, that you have identified?

12 MR. STELLO: They have this comprehensive list that
13 we sent to you, which identifies everything we know of.

14 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: That is the list for
15 present purposes?

16 MR. STELLO: By topic identification.

17 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Except that employee concerns
18 will uncover others, some of which we already know.

19 MR. DENTON: We will be sending them --

20 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Shouldn't those be added to the
21 list? For example, cable pulling, that is one that is
22 buried under employees concerns, when it is identified as a
23 real problem, should it be pulled out as another one?

24 MR. STELLO: It will be.

25 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: I am going to ask the

1 Commissioners if they have more questions, but I want to
2 remind them we also have OI and OIA in the wings to be heard
3 from. Let me ask if there are further questions.

4 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: I would just make one
5 comment or two, short ones. I agree with what you said, Joe,
6 and I think it is important that we keep our compass straight
7 on this thing. If indeed we under reacted over the last
8 several years in dealing with TVA, we want to be careful that
9 we don't over react now. There is a certain appropriate
10 allocation of resources that we should give this problem.

11 I am impressed, frankly, with what you have done and
12 the way you have organized your efforts. We need to see to it
13 that we are not on the critical path to delay their re-start,
14 but it is also not our job to do their job for them,
15 especially at the expense of other licensees, to whom we have
16 responsibilities as well.

17 I am reminded of an old saying that roughly
18 paraphrased, involves keeping your head when everybody around
19 you is losing theirs and blaming it on you. I think that
20 applies to us somewhat here. Let's keep our heads straight
21 here and do our job. It looks to me like you are on the right
22 path.

23 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Just a brief comment. I
24 would say it looks to me like you have made a lot of progress
25 since we had our last meeting with you. I know you all and

1 your people have put in a lot of time and effort. I was very
2 much pleased to see the staff paper and to see an
3 identification of the issues. I also liked the idea of
4 identifying who is responsible on our side for each of these
5 issues and each of the items.

6 I agree with Joe. I think the next step is going to
7 be to try and break out, as we learn of them, the employee
8 concerns and NSRS issues, and have an identification of those
9 as well, because I think those categories include a lot of
10 items.

11 It does look like to me that you all have been able
12 to accomplish a fair amount in the past few weeks since we met
13 last.

14 MR. STELLO: The list is getting so long, I would be
15 surprised if anything else comes out that we don't have a name
16 for it already.

17 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Well, I suspect even as
18 you look at the new employee concerns, so much has been
19 identified already that what you are going to find is lots
20 more examples of some of the same things.

21 MR. STELLO: That's right.

22 COMMISSIONER ZECH: I have just a couple brief
23 comments.

24 First of all, it is appropriate, I think, in any
25 case like this that we do focus in on our major problems, and

1 that is exactly what we are doing. I think the Staff is doing
2 an excellent job in mobilizing your senior managers. I think
3 Hugh Thompson's role as the coordinator, and with John
4 Olshinsky from the Region participating full time, I think
5 that certainly the Staff is doing a very commendable job.

6 I do think, too, I was impressed in going through
7 the material you sent us with the fact that you are nailing
8 down, as Commissioner Asselstine pointed out, individual
9 accountability, and your pert charts, I thought, were
10 appropriate. It shows an organizational logic that feels to
11 me, on problems like this one that are rather large, you
12 simply have got to get your arms around them some way, and
13 that is an excellent way to do it. So I was impressed with
14 that, too.

15 I certainly agree with Mr. Stello's comments that
16 NRC regulates and the utilities construct, maintain, operate
17 and manage, that they are separate roles; that we and the
18 utilities both focus on the public health and safety, but we
19 do have separate roles. Our role is to regulate, and I think
20 it is proper that we look into all our responsibilities in
21 this regard.

22 I don't think you are managing the plant, and I
23 don't think you are getting out in front, although I think you
24 are keeping right up with them, in parallel, it looks like to
25 me, but that is appropriate. That's what we should do. And

1 the more coordination and assistance we can give them as it
2 goes along to make sure that they are going to be properly
3 regulated is appropriate.

4 I think that one lesson that comes out to me very
5 clear here, it really points out the value of
6 standardization. If we had all of our plants, or at least
7 many of them in the country, standardized, maybe three or four
8 different kinds of plants, you could focus your resources now,
9 you could take people who are very qualified and very up to
10 date on things, and you can handle problems like this in a
11 much more efficient manner.

12 So when we have different plants, and now you are
13 talking about other plants that you are reviewing, too,
14 people are resources, and qualified and trained people
15 certainly come to the fore, in my mind, as the key to helping
16 us solve this problem. So standardization would certainly
17 have been helpful in this case.

18 The last point I would like to make is we are indeed
19 putting a big effort into this TVA and it is appropriate, but
20 I hope when all is said and done when we finish, that we can
21 perhaps form a group that will look back and say lessons
22 learned on this and it will indeed perhaps help us as far as
23 we get to the future and maybe will allow us to see if we can
24 do something a little bit different as far as the regulatory
25 program is concerned to be mindful of a problem that is this

1 large.

2 So I hope we won't, you know, go on with this to the
3 next issue, and I hope will spend some time, at least, trying
4 to gather together what you did and how you did it and be self
5 critical and see what we can do to help ourselves in the
6 future. I think it is something that we should focus on.

7 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: Thank you.

8 I wanted to make a point and I was hoping we could
9 go on. I wanted to take a five-minute break and then go on to
10 OI and OIA.

11 I, too, appreciate the progress that has been made.
12 I would caution about getting too involved as to whether or
13 not there was a breakdown in regulation. I think, as
14 Commissioner Zech has pointed out, we do have lessons to be
15 learned from this, and I hope as we go along that we will make
16 note of them so that they can be taken into account in
17 planning future endeavors.

18 I think I have asked for particular attention to
19 lessons learned.

20 MR. STELLO: I wanted to say, Mr. Chairman, that we
21 received your memorandum of February 5th directing our
22 attention to just that task. I appreciate particularly the
23 memorandum recognizing that we ought to be careful so we are
24 not diverting our resources.

25 As you are clearly aware now, your senior staff, who

1 needs to be involved, are spending a considerable amount of
2 time in making sure that we resolve the issues before us. We
3 are not interested in history right now. When we get some
4 time, I think it is very important for us to go back to look
5 at what happened, understand what happened, look at what we
6 can do differently, and not be the least bit hesitant to
7 identify, if there are lessons there, what those lessons are
8 and be willing and ready to make whatever changes seem to be
9 right based on that experience.

10 We want to do that. We think it is important for an
11 organization to learn from experiences, and we very much want
12 to do that.

13 Now, I believe it is important for Harold and the
14 team to have some time to reflect on that issue when they are
15 near finished so it does not detract from where they are
16 now. As you are aware, Congressman Dingell has a completely
17 independent investigation related to this specific issue. To
18 the extent we can get any insight from activities that they
19 have done, we would also find that useful.

20 As you also are aware, you have asked OIA to look
21 into matters, and we want to be sure to have that benefit. I
22 am sure Mr. Hayes will cheerfully cooperate and also provide
23 us some insight, and I am sure if he is reluctant you will all
24 be willing to help me persuade him that he needs to provide us
25 with that kind of help, too.

1 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: Victor, I have been trying
2 to convince Mr. Hayes ever since I got here that he is not
3 supposed to be cheerful in his job.

4 [Laughter.]

5 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Joe, I have one quick
6 question.

7 The letter that you-all sent to TVA asking about the
8 employee concern program. I know that Steve White had called
9 me, and I think he called you, Joe, about the letter. At the
10 time I talked with him, he indicated that very shortly after
11 he was able to conclude his contractual discussions with QTC,
12 like within a matter of two or three days, he would be in a
13 position to finalize the employee concern program and put it
14 in writing and get it up to us.

15 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: When we met with him on the
16 31st, he said it was going into effect on the 1st, but I
17 haven't seen it.

18 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Yes, I was going to
19 ask: Have we got it?

20 MR. STELLO: Well, Mr. Denton's letter that was sent
21 a week ago clearly identifies after you are done with that
22 negotiation, please provide us with that. I don't happen to
23 have the answer, but the impression I have gotten from them is
24 they were fairly near ready to provide us with that, so I
25 expect we will see it soon.

1 MR. THOMPSON: The letter is on Steve White's desk
2 today. White is not in town to sign the letter. They are
3 making a revision to the employee concern program manual.
4 That revision will not be sent until probably the end of next
5 week. I think the real program description of what they are
6 really going to do at Watts Bar will be probably a week from
7 today.

8 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Okay. It seems to me
9 there are a lot of questions about the employee concern
10 program and that is really all up in the air until we see what
11 it really is.

12 CHAIRMAN PALLADINO: All right.

13 I am going to suggest now that we take a five-minute
14 break. That gives the Secretary an opportunity to realign
15 people.

16 Would you kindly wait, please? Give the Secretary
17 time to change the audience, and then we will come back and go
18 into closed session.

19 [Whereupon, at 3:45 p.m. the meeting was recessed,
20 to reconvene in a closed session.]

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STAFF BRIEFING

TVA NUCLEAR PLANTS

FEBRUARY 7, 1986

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 0 STATUS OF STAFF ACTIONS REGARDING TVA FACILITIES, AS PRESENTED
IN SECY 86-1A, PROVIDED TO THE COMMISSION JANUARY 31, 1986
- 0 PRELIMINARY RESOURCE ESTIMATES FOR SEQUOYAH
- 0 SUMMARY OF TVA EFFORT'S IMPACT ON STAFF
- 0 WILL FOCUS ON RECENT ACTIVITIES IN AREAS OF EQUIPMENT
QUALIFICATION, EMPLOYEE CONCERNS, AND WELDING AT SEQUOYAH

BACKGROUND

- 0 ON DECEMBER 13, 1985, CHAIRMAN PALLADINO DIRECTED STAFF TO PREPARE PERIODIC WRITTEN REPORTS SUMMARIZING MAJOR NRC PLANS, SCHEDULES, AND ORGANIZATIONAL ASSIGNMENTS RELATED TO ALL TVA PLANTS
- 0 FIRST MONTHLY REPORT PROVIDED JANUARY 2, 1986 (SECY 86-1)
- 0 COMMISSION BRIEFED ON JANUARY 7, 1986
- 0 TVA APPOINTED STEVEN WHITE AS NEW MANAGER OF NUCLEAR POWER ON JANUARY 13, 1986
- 0 TVA REEVALUATING STATUS OF THEIR ONGOING EFFORTS TO ADDRESS CONCERNS REGARDING RESTART OR LICENSING OF TVA FACILITIES.
- 0 NO TVA SCHEDULES HAVE BEEN ISSUED

ISSUES SUMMARY FOR SEQUOYAH

<u>ISSUE</u>	<u>LEAD RESP.</u>
1. EMPLOYEE CONCERNS	NRR
2. ALLEGATIONS	NRR
3. WELDING	NRR
4. DESIGN CONTROL	IE
5. ELECTRICAL DESIGN CALCULATIONS	NRR
6. EQUIPMENT QUALIFICATION	IE
7. OPERATIONAL READINESS	RII
8. CABLE TRAY SUPPORTS	RII
9. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION REVISIONS	NRR
10. WRONGDOING, INTIMIDATION & HARASSMENT	OI
11. NSRS REPORTS	NRR
12. CORPORATE ACTIVITIES	NRR
3. QA PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION	RII

WATTS BAR ISSUE SUMMARY

<u>ISSUE</u>	<u>LEAD RESP.</u>
1. EMPLOYEE CONCERNS	NRR
2. ALLEGATIONS	NRR
3. CONCERNS IN NSRS REPORTS	NRR
4. QUALITY ASSURANCE	NRR
5. WELDING	NRR
6. EQUIPMENT QUALIFICATION	NRR
7. TVA ORGANIZATION	NRR
8. LICENSING ITEMS	NRR
9. WRONGDOING, INTIMIDATION AND HARASSMENT	OI
10. OPERATIONAL READINESS	RII

BROWNS FERRY ISSUE SUMMARY

<u>ISSUE</u>	<u>REVIEW RESP.</u>
1. SITE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION	NRR
2. OPERATIONAL READINESS PROGRAM	RII
3. MAINTENANCE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	RII
4. SITE MASTER SCHEDULE	NO SPECIFIC ACTION
5. INTEGRATED SCHEDULE FOR NRC REQUIRED MODIFICATIONS	NRR
6. SEISMIC ISSUES	RII
6A. SEISMIC QUALIFICATION OF CABLE TRAYS	RII
6B. PIPING AND SUPPORTS	RII
6C. HVAC	RII
6D. TORUS PIPING	NRR
7. DESIGN CONTROL	IE
8. DISPOSITION OF CONTRACTOR RECOMMENDATIONS	NRR
9. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALIFICATION PROGRAM	IE
10. INDEPENDENT SAFETY ENGINEERING GROUP	NRR
11. FIRE PROTECTION PROGRAM	NRR
12. SHIFT STAFFING	NRR
13. EMPLOYEE CONCERNS PROGRAM	NRR
14. EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPABILITY	RII
15. PIPE INSPECTION/STRESS RELIEVING/REPAIRS	NRR
16. APPENDIX J PROGRAM	NRR
17. SECONDARY CONTAINMENT ISOLATION DAMPERS	RII
18. DIESEL GENERATORS	PII
19. REGULATORY PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	RII
20. OPERATOR REEXAMINATION	RII
21. QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM	RII
22. INPO EVALUATION	IE
23. NSRS REPORTS	NRR
24. LICENSING ISSUES	NRR
25. LIMITORQUE VALVE MOTOR OPERATOR INSPECTION	RII
26. RESTART TEST AND INSPECTION PROGRAM	RII
27. MODIFIED DESIGN REVIEW	RII

RESOURCES SUMMARY

0 ESTIMATED RESOURCES FOR SEQUOYAH (APPROX. 500-600 MAN WEEKS)

NRR	150
IE	150
RII	300

✓ 0 RESOURCE NEEDS FOR WATTS BAR UNDER REVIEW

0 RESOURCE NEEDS FOR BROWNS FERRY AND BELLEFONTE ARE INDETERMINATE

IMPACT OF TVA EFFORT ON STAFF

- O THREE EQ INSPECTIONS DEFERRED (POTENTIAL ADDITIONAL DEFERRALS MAY RESULT FROM WATTS BAR AND BROWNS FERRY EQ INSPECTIONS)
- O NEXT SCHEDULED CAT INSPECTION DEFERRED
- O TWO "SMALL-SCALE" PAT INSPECTIONS DEFERRED
- O INITIATION OF THIRD SAFETY SYSTEM OUTAGE MODIFICATION INSPECTION DEFERRED
- O REGIONAL INSPECTION PROGRAM CURRENTLY UNDER EVALUATION
- O BEAVER VALLEY 2, CALLAWAY AND ONE NEW PROJECT MANAGERS DIVERTED TO TVA EFFORT
- O NRR WILL DEFER THE COMPLETION OF IMPORTANT SELECTED PLANT-SPECIFIC LICENSING REVIEWS AND THE REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SELECTED SAFETY ISSUES
- O SELECTED SENIOR STAFF MEMBERS AND MANAGEMENT RESOURCES REDIRECTED SOLELY TO TVA EFFORT

SEQUOYAH - EQUIPMENT QUALIFICATION

PROBLEM: TVA'S PROGRAM TO IMPLEMENT THE EQUIPMENT QUALIFICATION RULE AT SEQUOYAH 1 AND 2 MUST INSURE THEY FULLY MEET ALL REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR 50.49.

LEAD RESPONSIBILITY: IE

STAFF ACTIONS

- REVIEWED APPROXIMATELY 2/3 OF THE 95 EQUIPMENT QUALIFICATION FILES AT SEQUOYAH. NO MAJOR PROGRAMMATIC DEFICIENCIES
- IDENTIFIED VARIOUS ITEMS REQUIRING TVA RESOLUTION
- PREPARING STAFF SER
- PLAN TO REVIEW REMAINING EQ FILES WHEN TVA HAS THEM READY (ESTIMATE MID-LATE FEBRUARY)

TVA ACTIONS REMAINING

- COMPLETION OF REMAINING EQ FILES AND CERTIFICATION THAT EQ REQUIREMENTS MET
- RESOLUTION OF VARIOUS IDENTIFIED DISCREPANCIES
- QUALIFICATION OF ROCKBESTOS CABLING
- RESOLUTION OF POSTULATED HIGH ENERGY LINE BREAK IN VALVE VAULT AND ITS IMPACT ON INSTALLED EQUIPMENT

RESOURCE ESTIMATES

NRR	13	MANWEEKS
IE	29	MANWEEKS
REGION II	11	MANWEEKS
CONTRACTOR	\$45,000	

SEQUOYAH - EMPLOYEE CONCERNS

PROBLEM: OVER 4,000 TVA EMPLOYEE CONCERNS HAVE BEEN RAISED, SOME OF WHICH INVOLVE POTENTIALLY SAFETY-RELATED AND INTIMIDATION/HARASSMENT/WRONGDOING ISSUES. A PORTION OF THESE CONCERNS APPLY TO SEQUOYAH

LEAD RESPONSIBILITY: NRR

STAFF ACTIONS:

- CONDUCTED AN INITIAL EVALUATION AND INSPECTIONS OF TVA PROGRAM. SOME PROGRAMMATIC DEFICIENCIES; PREPARING LETTER TO TVA
- DEVELOPING INTEGRATED DATA BASE ON ALL EMPLOYEE CONCERNS, ALLEGATIONS, NSRS ISSUES
- PREPARING FOR ADDITIONAL ONSITE INSPECTIONS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF TVA CORRECTIVE ACTIONS (EXPECT MULTIPLE INSPECTIONS IN FEB/MARCH 1986)
- STAFF SER WILL BE PREPARED, ADDRESSING SAFETY-RELATED ISSUES

TVA ACTIONS REMAINING

- COMPLETE EVALUATION AND RESOLUTION OF GENERIC AND SPECIFIC EMPLOYEE CONCERNS APPLICABLE TO SEQUOYAH
- RESPOND TO STAFF CONCERNS REGARDING EMPLOYEE CONCERN PROGRAM
- MAKE TRANSITION FROM QTC-ADMINISTERED PROGRAM TO TVA-ADMINISTERED PROGRAM

RESOURCE ESTIMATES

NRR	20 MANWEEKS
IE	31 MANWEEKS
REGION II	66 MANWEEKS
CONTRACTOR	\$150,000

SEQUOYAH - WELDING

PROBLEM: APPROXIMATELY 50 EMPLOYEE CONCERNS REGARDING WELDING ARE APPLICABLE TO SEQUOYAH. THESE INCLUDE IMPROPER OR FALSIFIED INSPECTION, QUESTIONABLE WELDER AND INSPECTOR QUALIFICATIONS, IMPROPER WELD ROD CONTROL AND FAILURE TO MEET CODE REQUIREMENTS.

LEAD-RESPONSIBILITY: NRR

STAFF ACTIONS:

- REVIEWING TVA WELD INSPECTION PLAN; STAFF COMMENTS TO BE PROVIDED TO TVA
- CONDUCTED ONSITE INSPECTION. TVA EFFORT APPEARS ADEQUATE.
- PLANNING FOR SEVERAL ADDITIONAL SITE INSPECTIONS TO VERIFY TVA WELD REINSPECTIONS, INCLUDING INDEPENDENT MEASUREMENTS EFFORT USING REGION I NDE VAN (INSPECTIONS TO BE CONDUCTED DURING FEBRUARY 1986).
- STAFF SER WILL BE PREPARED

TVA ACTIONS REMAINING

- COMPLETE WELD REINSPECTIONS AND SUBMIT INSPECTION REPORT TO NRC FOR STAFF REVIEW (EXPECT REPORT IN EARLY MARCH)
- RESOLVE WELD RELATED EMPLOYEE CONCERNS
- CORRECT ANY IDENTIFIED WELD DEFICIENCIES AND RESPOND TO STAFF CONCERNS

RESOURCE ESTIMATES

NRR	18 MANWEEKS	REGION I	8 MANWEEKS
IE	15 MANWEEKS	CONTRACTOR	\$200,000
REGION II	3? MANWEEKS		

CONCLUSIONS

- O TVA RECEIVING TOP PRIORITY BY NRC STAFF
- O EXTENSIVE INVOLVEMENT BY SENIOR NRC MANAGEMENT TEAM AND GOOD COMMUNICATIONS AT ALL LEVELS BETWEEN STAFF AND TVA
- O STAFF ACTIONS AND RESOURCE NEEDS ESTABLISHED FOR SEQUOYAH - RESOLUTION OF EMPLOYEE CONCERNS EXPECTED TO BE CRITICAL PATH
- O SCOPE OF STAFF ACTIONS AND RESOURCE NEEDS LESS PRECISE FOR WATTS BAR, BROWNS FERRY AND BELLEFONTE
- O PROGRAMMATIC REVIEWS FOR SEQUOYAH CONDUCTED IN MAJOR AREAS OF WELDING, EQUIPMENT QUALIFICATION AND EMPLOYEE CONCERNS
- O SIGNIFICANT STAFF EFFORT EXPECTED IN NEXT FEW MONTHS ON SEQUOYAH AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM WILL REDIRECT RESOURCES AS REQUIRED
- O TVA REEVALUATING SCOPE OF THEIR EFFORT AND NO SCHEDULES AVAILABLE

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