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Harold Denton
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20555

January 21, 1980

Dear Sir:

The enclosed letter dated December 18, 1979 was mailed to you on December 19, received by NRC on December 26 (as documented by the certified mail receipt stub), was reported to be in the NRC's legal office on January 8, and has been lost by NRC according to our most recent inquiry. The letter specifically requests a hearing before issuance of any type of operating license for Sequoyah Nuclear Plant, and clearly details legitimate safety concerns. There is no excuse for the delay in response to such an important letter, and the runaround we have received regarding its status certainly leads us to question its true whereabouts. The local and national media have indicated interest in the developments surrounding our request, and they will be kept informed.

Since our December 18, 1979 letter, there have been several other local and national incidents which further support refusal of the TVA low power license:

- (1) A report drafted for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has recommended that any reactor whose operator is unable to plan for evacuation of everybody living within a 30-mile radius of the reactor be shut down. The TVA Sequoyah Nuclear Plant currently has an evacuation plan for only three miles, as is discussed in our prior letter. The evacuation of a 30-mile radius would include more than 250,000 people.
- (2) TVA has again shown their incompetence by negligently leaving a containment hatch open, breaching containment at the Brown's Ferry Nuclear Facility. They reluctantly agreed to pay the \$20,000 fine which will in turn be passed on to their ratepayers.
- (3) TVA is now asking for federal aid to pay for the decommissioning of one of its uranium mills in South Dakota. It turned out that it was not economically advantageous to keep it operating. TVA also owns uranium rights in Wyoming and New Mexico.
- (4) There have been 2600 pounds of nuclear material lost in the last ten years. Yet, the Erwin, Tennessee plant is still expected to be reopened for national security reasons. Although all 2600 pounds was not weapons grade, the amount of weapons grade material missing would provide enough for a whole nation's nuclear arsenal. In a report by TVA entitled "The Tennessee Valley Region: A Year 2000 Profile", it is detailed that the Region is expected to have several breeder reactors, six fabricating plants, four reprocessing plants, and at least 17 fission reactors. With this many nuclear facilities, diversion of plutonium will be a common threat.

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transportation accidents will be frequent, and the region will become a near police state. Further supporting this contention is the recently passed state law which provides penalties up to 21 years of imprisonment for conspiracy to sabotage a nuclear plant, and federal laws of similar nature.

(3) On January 16, 1980, the driver of a truck full of low-level radioactive waste--solidified resin from Arkansas Nuclear Reactor 1--parked his rig and walked to the Tennessee Highway Patrol station in Siftonia, Tennessee complaining of stomach sickness and fear of a leak in his cargo. Chattanooga police found initial Geiger counter readings high on one side of the rig where it expressed that some liquid had leaked from the metal can. Later, other officials reported these findings and the rig continued on its way to Memphis, where it was stopped. Chattanooga, the driver was not alone. He had picked up a "white-trash" fellow. Certainly a truck carrying nuclear wastes should not other times to citizens, exposing the public to release of this deadly cargo.

The above events are representative of the irresponsible nuclear industry, and TVA is no exception. The city of Chattanooga cannot be asked as a Chinese city to determine if Seaboyer is "safe enough". TVA has cited safety deficiencies, the NRC has recommended a 10-mile radius evacuation plan, and a national radioactive waste management program is still yet to be developed.

I therefore reiterate my request for a public hearing near Chattanooga before issuance of any type of operating license to Seaboyer Nuclear Plant. Please respond as quickly as possible. Thank you.

Yours very truly,


James A. Tabor
Chairperson
Chattanooga For Safe Energy

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