



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
245 PEACHTREE CENTER AVENUE NE, SUITE 1200
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-1257

July 12, 2013

Mr. Joseph Carson, PE
10953 Twin Harbour Drive
Knoxville, TN 37934

Dear Mr. Carson:

I am responding to your letter of May 30, 2013, regarding the Fukushima disaster and the responses of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and the Office of Special Counsel (OSC) to concerns you have expressed regarding nuclear safety in Tennessee. In your letter, you state that Fukushima was a profoundly man-made disaster and that TVA's and OSC's dismissive and inadequate responses to well-evidenced, significant concerns relevant to nuclear safety reflect either a failure to understand or a lack of concern. You enclosed, with your May 30th letter, a copy of a letter dated May 29, 2013, which was addressed to Ms. Carolyn Lerner, Office of Special Counsel. In this letter you raised two issues concerning: 1) TVA's interpretation of the term "prohibited personnel practices" and 2) the inability of TVA employees to raise nuclear safety issues to OSC (as whistleblowers). You asked that we make clear to TVA and OSC that we care about public health and safety in Tennessee.

Your letters of May 29 and 30 were carefully reviewed for the purpose of determining whether they referenced any nuclear safety concerns requiring Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) review and follow up in accordance with our allegation program. We did not identify any such concerns. With respect to the two issues you raised with OSC (as referenced above), please be advised that we have no jurisdiction to address these issues as they are not regulated by the NRC. We also note that TVA nuclear workers have a number of avenues available to them for reporting nuclear safety concerns. They may report concerns to TVA's Employee Concerns Program staff; they may document issues in the condition report system, and they may report issues directly to the NRC. In addition, nuclear workers who suffer adverse employment action for reporting nuclear safety concerns may pursue legal remedies from the U.S. Department of Labor or the NRC via the whistleblower protection statute, Section 211 of the Energy Reorganization Act.

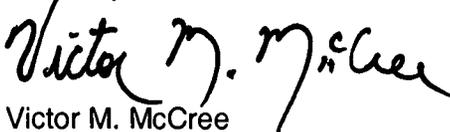
TVA is very much aware of our interest in protecting public health and safety with regards to operation of their nuclear facilities. In addition to our other regulatory oversight activities, we have inspectors onsite every working day who closely monitor operations of TVA's nuclear facilities and provide another means for TVA employees to express concerns to us.

Thank you for informing us of your concerns. We take our safety responsibilities to the public very seriously and will continue to do so within the bounds of our lawful authority. The Fukushima disaster was a significant event. The NRC has taken actions to enhance the safety of U.S. reactors based on lessons learned from this event including, but not limited to, requiring power plants to perform detailed inspections or walk downs of their seismic and flooding protection features and seismic flooding reevaluations. Plants with containment

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designs similar to Fukushima have been required to install a hardened vent that can remove heat and pressure before potential damage to the reactor core occurs, emergency response capabilities are being strengthened and integrated, and other aspects of reactor operations are being enhanced in response to this event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victor M. McCree". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "V" and "M".

Victor M. McCree
Regional Administrator