## Breeder Reactor Corporation

## U.S. Electric Systems Supporting The Clinch River Breeder Reactor Plant Project

THE BREEDER REACTOR: KEY TO A \$20 TRILLION FUEL BONANZA

Resting in three storage yards around the country are several thousand steel tanks containing what could well be the solution to America's energy shortage. The light green tanks hold a by-product of the uranium enrichment process which produces nuclear fuel.

Although the by-product is presently worthless, it has almost unlimited potential. In fact, scientists estimate that it could yield energy equivalent to a 700-year supply of coal or a 400-year supply of oil measured at 1975 U.S. consumption rates.

The key to unlocking this bonanza is the breeder nuclear reactor which can convert the by-product into electricity worth more than \$20 trillion, some 3,000 times more valuable than the \$6 billion in gold in Fort Knox.

The breeder reactor is not new, but its capabilities are certainly startling. For in addition to generating electricity, the breeder reactor is able to produce more nuclear fuel than it uses. This breeding process operates by exposing pellets made from the nuclear by-product to a fission process fueled by plutonium. At the same time that heat for the generation of electricity is produced, the by-product can be transformed into additional plutonium.

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If later approved by the Federal Government, this new plutonium could be used as fuel for both breeder and conventional reactors. Used in this manner, the plutonium would supply electricity equivalent to five times the oil of all the OPEC nations. What the breeder offers, then, is a virtually unlimited supply of economical, clean, safe electricity.

Work on developing a commercial breeder reactor has been progressing steadily for more than 25 years. The present step in the process is the Clinch River Breeder Reactor Plant Project, a large-scale demonstration breeder which is planned for a Clinch River site in the city of Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The Project is a joint government and industry endeavor managed by the U.S. Department of Energy and funded by both the Federal Government and 753 U.S. electric systems.

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