345 East 47th Street - New York 17, N. Y. - Plaza 2-6800 (Area Code 212)

United Engineering Center

John W. Davis Director at Large

April 27, 1962
Address reply to:
Southern Bell Tel. & Tel. Co.
P. O. Box 2211
Atlanta 1, Georgia

Mr. M. T. Hatley, Chairman North Carolina Section AIEE c/o Duke Power Company Charlotte, North Carolina

Dear Tom:

I enjoyed our telephone conversation on Thursday very much.

While these two letters do not attempt to answer all the questions raised, they do express my feelings in this merger.

It is impossible to get a pre-merger consultation of this type worked up into a form which will satisfy all the "warehouse" lawyers that seem to feel that every I should be dotted and every T should be crossed before they will support it.

I believe it is approaching wording, and there will be some editorial changes in it even yet, I feel sure, which will enable the merged organization to operate without choking to death in red tape.

A twenty-five man board is large enough to get "grass roots" representation and small enough to operate in a business-like manner instead of as a "debating society."

I feel sure that the seven Regional Directors which are nominated and elected by the "grass roots" can exercise proper control in a twenty-five man board just as the fifteen have in our present forty-one member board.

The committee of members of both societies has put in a lot of time and effort on this much needed merger and I would hate to see this go for nothing.

Once the merger is approved by the two societies and the courts, it will be much easier to work out those rough spots which it has been impossible to handle to conclusion with committee type negotiation.

Yours truly,

John W. Davis Director at Large

Attachment:

Replies to Letters from Messrs. Brownlee and Grund