

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Public Affairs
Washington, DC 20555
Phone 301-415-8200 Fax 301-415-2234
Internet: opa@nrc.gov

No. S-97-12
May 22, 1997

DESIGN CERTIFICATION CEREMONY
FOR
ABB-COMBUSTION ENGINEERING

OPENING COMMENTS

BY

DR. SHIRLEY ANN JACKSON, CHAIRMAN
U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

MAY 21, 1997

Welcome to this ceremony for the certification of the System 80+ standard plant design. I especially want to welcome Mr. Newman of ABB-Combustion Engineering.

This ceremony signifies the culmination of nearly 10 years of effort by the NRC and the nuclear industry, to achieve the dual goals of standardization and a more predictable licensing process through the use of certified designs....

This effort began in the Fall of 1987 with the ABB-Combustion Engineering application for the System 80+ design and the issuance of the Commission's revised Policy Statement on Standardization. In this policy statement, the Commission encouraged the use of standard plant designs, and announced its intent to develop a regulatory framework for the certification of such designs. The Commission continues to believe that design certification will result in future nuclear power plants with enhanced safety and reliability.

The ensuing 10 years have involved many challenges for the NRC staff, both in reforming the licensing process and in reviewing the design certification applications....

Both the NRC and the industry vendors have worked vigorously to develop creative solutions to the issues involved in certifying the next generation of reactor designs. The result of this long and arduous process is this design certification; together with the certification of the GE Nuclear Energy Advanced Boiling Water Reactor design, it is the highest level of design approval ever issued by the NRC. I am pleased to present this certificate to Mr. Newman.