

October 9, 2000

Timothy Dennis
Chair - ANS-3.5 Working Group
Post Office Box 119
Walnutport, Pennsylvania 18088-0119

Dear Mr. Dennis:

Your letter of September 18, 2000, to the Secretary of the Commission has been referred to me for response.

In your letter, you asked for an extension of the public comment period from September 18, 2000, until at least December 18, 2000, a period of 90-days, for the proposed rule on 10 CFR Part 55, "Operators Licenses" (65 FR 41021) regarding Operator License Eligibility and Use of Simulation Facilities in Operator Licensing. Also in your letter, you state the committee is meeting in the near future in order to deliberate toward reaching consensus.

Unfortunately, because the comment period for the proposed rule has already closed, and because it would be unfair to those who have already submitted comments on the proposed rule to formally reopen the comment period for one commenter, we are unable to grant your request. However, as stated in the Federal Register notice, comments received after the comment closing date of September 18, 2000, will be considered if it is practical to do so. Because the NRC staff will need at least several weeks to analyze public comments on the proposed rule, the NRC should be able to consider comments received from the ANS-3.5 Working Group, provided they are submitted in a timely fashion.

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact Glenn Tracy of my staff by telephone on 301-415-1031 or by e-mail at gmt@nrc.gov .

Sincerely,

/RA/

Samuel J. Collins, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Samuel J. Collins, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

ACCESSION: **ML003757551 (Package)**
ML003752111 (Incoming)
ML003757521 (Memo)

OFFICE	IOLB		RGEB		DIPM		DRIP		OPA	
NAME	GTracy		CCarpenter		BBoger		DMatthews		EHayden	
DATE	10/04/00 ¹		10/05/00 ¹		10/04/00 ¹		10/04/00 ¹		10/04/00 ¹	
OFFICE	OGC		ADM		ADIP		DIR/NRR			
NAME	STrebyno legal objection		DMeyer		JJohnson		SCollins			
DATE	10/04/00 ¹		10/04/00 ¹		10/05/00 ¹		10/09/00			

* via e-mail
 ** via memorandum
 *** via telephone
¹ via previous concurrence sheet

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