

Public Ser. of N.H.



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

June 13, 1991

CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Bob Smith  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510-2903

Dear Senator Smith:

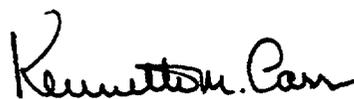
I am responding to your letter of May 14, 1991, in which you requested information regarding outstanding questions related to plant safety for the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) believes that all significant safety issues concerning Seabrook have been resolved and that the plant is safe to operate.

All significant safety concerns were resolved before the NRC granted a full power operating license in 1990. The NRC is continually conducting licensing and inspection activities at Seabrook that are typical of any operating nuclear facility and contribute to nuclear safety. Typically, these activities involve issues such as procedural compliance, maintenance practices, equipment reliability and review of proposed license amendments. At any given time there are numerous issues of this nature under review at each plant.

The NRC and the licensee continue to interact with Members of Congress and Congressional staff regarding weld records for construction field welds made by the Pullman-Higgins Company. Although the NRC staff has not identified any specific inadequacies on existing welds at the Seabrook Station, a number of records-keeping discrepancies have been discovered which caused the staff to request additional actions by the licensee. The licensee is conducting an additional review of its as-built isometric drawings to identify those Pullman-Higgins field welds for which radiography was required by code and to verify that all required records concerning these welds are stored in the licensee's records vault. The licensee is presently implementing a weld record reverification program and has found several minor radiographic records discrepancies among the records reviewed to date; however, no weld deficiencies that could affect nuclear safety have been identified. The weld records review is expected to be completed by the end of August.

You also asked to be informed about future meetings or correspondence between the NRC, other Members of Congress, and the licensee involving the review of safety-related records at Seabrook. The Commission's Office of Congressional Affairs will keep your staff advised of significant aspects of the Seabrook weld records review and related meetings. We will also provide you with copies of relevant correspondence.

Sincerely,

  
Kenneth M. Carr

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COMMITTEES  
ARMED SERVICES  
ENVIRONMENT AND  
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COMMITTEE

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2903

May 14, 1991

The Honorable Kenneth M. Carr  
Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As you know, the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant in New Hampshire received a full-power license from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in March 1990 after an extensive and protracted licensing process that spanned over seventeen years.

Today, the people of New Hampshire and New England are benefiting from the reliable electricity that the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant produces. I am encouraged by the good track record that Seabrook has exhibited during its first year of operation, and I expect that the plant will continue on that track. Furthermore, I remain interested in assuring that Seabrook operates efficiently and economically and remains safe.

Despite the licensee's excellent record of plant operation and Seabrook's protracted licensing process, some Members of Congress and congressional staff continue to question the capacity of the licensee to operate Seabrook. It is my understanding that many of these safety-related questions have already been answered adequately, and in accordance with the NRC's rigid standards. Could you please inform me of any outstanding questions related to plant safety that the NRC has not answered to date? If any outstanding questions remain, I would like you to estimate how much longer an NRC review of these issues should last.

In addition, I would appreciate it if the NRC would promptly provide to my office any and all future correspondence between the NRC, other Members of Congress, and the licensee involving the review of safety-related records at Seabrook. Please also keep me informed prior to any future meetings that the NRC may have with either the licensee or congressional staff on this matter.

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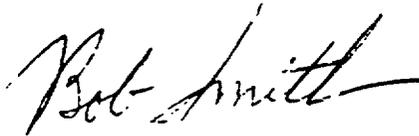
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May 14, 1991  
The Honorable Kenneth Carr

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in meeting  
this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Smith". The signature is written in black ink and has a fluid, connected style.

Bob Smith, USS