

From: "Dave Lochbaum" <dlochbaum@ucsusa.org>
To: <BCM@nrc.gov>
Date: 11/28/01 4:45PM
Subject: Priorities

Hello Brian:

I recently received a copy of a meeting summary dated October 21, 2001, prepared by Stephen T. Hoffman. It addressed a September 19, 2001, license renewal meeting with Hatch, Turkey Point, et al.

The last line of the first page of this memo, under a section titled "Status of Applications," reads as follows:

"Communications between the applicants and staff continue to be good and the application reviews are on or ahead of schedule."

This statement was made at a time when the NRC is treating the public like batteries - we are not included. The weblite provides very little information and I'm hearing through the grapevine that the review of documents is proceeding very slowly. Members of the public who are intervening in the Catawba and McGuire license renewal cases asked the NRC for a copy of the Updated Final Safety Analysis Reports so they could develop contentions. Their request was denied because the NRC staff has not yet determined if this information can be made public.

It is appalling that the NRC would be on or ahead of schedule on license renewals when the public cannot participate in the process. If the agency really valued public participation, it would suspend all licensing proceedings until after the review of what's naughty and what's nice was completed.

I have been, and will continue, to show elected officials, reporters, and people living in the shadows of nuclear power plants a printout of the NRC's weblite and the October 21st memo. It demonstrates very clearly that the NRC is concerned about the economic viability of the industry and not public safety.

The NRC should immediately suspend all license amendment applications until public access to information is restored.

Thanks,

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7/7-23

Mr. Raymond Shadis
New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution
Post Office Box 545
Brattleboro, Vermont 05302

Dear Mr. Shadis:

The Commission has received your letter of concern regarding the temporary shutdown of the NRC website for the purpose of performing a review of all the material on it. Our action in this regard was not an isolated one, but rather one followed by many government agencies as part of an ongoing effort to thwart the information-gathering activities of terrorists. In any event, as you have likely seen, the operation of the NRC website was restored on October 18. It currently makes available many categories of documents that were formerly available, including material pertinent to ongoing rulemaking proceedings.

Our review of the remaining materials is going forward in a deliberate and systematic manner. We will continue to restore documents promptly as their review is completed and it is deemed appropriate to do so.

In light of the foregoing, there is no need for the Commission to entertain your request to adjust its calendar or to suspend its licensing and rulemaking activities. To do as you suggest would be contrary to national policy; at all levels the government is continuing to do its business notwithstanding hardship or inconvenience. Nonetheless, the Commission is sensitive to the need for information on the part of its participants. *Cf. Consolidated Edison Co. of N. Y. (Indian Point 1 & 2), CLI-01-08, 53 NRC 225 (2001).* While there is no cause for an across the board lengthening of schedules, consideration will be given to circumstances, as necessary, where the unavailability on the website of specified documents has reasonably prevented parties to adjudication and rulemaking proceedings from fully or partially meeting established deadlines. You should be aware that in many cases documents are available locally in public libraries and can be secured from headquarters or the NRC regional offices on request.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Meserve, Chairman