



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

CHAIRMAN

April 14, 2004

The Honorable Jim Saxton
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Saxton:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of February 24, 2004, which requested information related to the NRC's license renewal process. As you noted, the NRC's review process for license renewal takes approximately two years. I have enclosed an informational brochure on the license renewal process as well as two CD-ROMs which contain documents describing the process and the tests, analyses, and standards that the NRC applies during the safety and environmental review of an application for license renewal by a nuclear power plant licensee. These documents and information about the status of all the license renewal reviews are also available on the NRC's Internet Web site at www.nrc.gov.

The review process involves a detailed assessment of a wide range of safety and environmental issues that will be important during the license renewal period (the 20 additional years beyond the 40 years of operation authorized under the original license). The safety review focuses on aging management programs for structures and components. An environmental impact statement will be prepared as part of the environmental review. The NRC will conduct several public meetings near the plant to encourage public participation in the process.

Issues such as security and any recent safety infractions are considered current operating plant issues. These important issues are being addressed by the NRC's normal program of licensing reviews and inspections during the current term of licensed operation and will continue to be addressed during the period of extended operation if the license is renewed. Therefore, they are not assessed separately as part of license renewal.

The Commission shares your commitment to the safety and security of the Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant. I hope that the enclosed documents will assist you in understanding the NRC license renewal process. On March 25, 2004, I met with Elise Kenderian and Joni Zielinski, of your staff, and discussed the NRC's license renewal review process. I am sorry that you were not able to attend this meeting.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Nils J. Diaz

Enclosures: See next page.

Enclosures:

1. NUREG/BR-0291, "Reactor License Renewal, Preparing for Tomorrow's Safety Today" (ML021960511)
2. CD-ROM containing NUREG-1437, Volumes 1 and 2 and Addendum 1, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants" (ML040690705, ML040690738 and ML040690720)
3. CD-ROM containing:
 - a. NUREG-1800, "Standard Review Plan for Review of License Renewal Applications for Nuclear Power Plants" (ML012070391 and ML012070409)
 - b. NUREG-1801, "Generic Aging Lessons Learned (GALL) Report" (ML012060392, ML012060514, ML012060539 and ML01206052)
 - c. Regulatory Guide 1.188, "Standard Format and Content for Applications to Renew Nuclear Power Plant Operating Licenses" (ML012010322)
 - d. Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) 95-10, "Industry Guidelines for Implementing the Requirements of 10 CFR Part 54 - The License Renewal Rule" (ML011100591, ML011100616 and ML011100629)

