

August 3, 2006

Robert B. Stephan, Assistant Secretary
Office of Infrastructure Protection
Preparedness Directorate
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

SUBJECT: NEW REACTOR LICENSING SCHEDULE FOR DEPARTMENT OF
HOMELAND SECURITY PLANNING PURPOSES

Dear Mr. Stephan:

As discussed at the July 7, 2006, meeting between the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), enclosed is a schedule of future new reactor licensing activities. It provides the latest projected submittal dates based on information from prospective applicants.

For planning purposes, and in an effort to meet the target goals discussed in House Report 109-474, "Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill, 2007," dated May 19, 2006, the following nominal review schedule time frames have been established: (1) Early Site Permit (ESP) - 21 months followed by a 12 month hearing period; (2) Combined License (COL) with referenced ESP - 27 months followed by a 9 month hearing period; and (3) COL (with no referenced ESP) - 30 months followed by a 12 month hearing period. The majority of review activities which include DHS participation occur in the first 15 months for an ESP application and 20 months for a COL application. Hearing support is ongoing throughout the review schedule and is dependent on each application's specific needs.

NRC and DHS share a common objective of protecting public health and safety through our efforts in evaluating emergency plans as well as potential security vulnerabilities for proposed new reactor sites. As you are aware, we have been working closely with your staff to develop sound protocols and processes for our interactions during new reactor licensing activities, including consultation on potential vulnerabilities of the location of proposed new facilities as required by the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

We hope this information will be helpful to your planning and resource allocation efforts in support of new reactor licensing activities.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Mr. Daniel Barss at 301-415-2922, or DMB1@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Roy P. Zimmerman, Director
Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: C. Conklin (DHS)
V. Quinn (DHS)

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The DHS is a full partner in evaluating the adequacy of emergency plans for protecting the health and safety of the public surrounding proposed new reactors. As you are aware, the new reactor application reviews are of heightened interest to the public, industry, and Congress.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Mr. Daniel Barss at 301-415-2922, or DMB1@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Roy P. Zimmerman, Director
Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response

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cc: C. Conklin (DHS)
V. Quinn (DHS)

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