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 AUTH. NAME: CURTIS, N.W. AUTHOR AFFILIATION: Pennsylvania Power & Light Co.
 RECIP. NAME: DENTON, H.R. RECIPIENT AFFILIATION: Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: Submits licensing schedule for facility. Press releases encl.

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June 20, 1979

NORMAN W. CURTIS
Vice President-Engineering & Construction
821-5381

Dr. Harold Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

REGULATORY DOCKET FILE COPY

SUSQUEHANNA SES SCHEDULE

Dear Harold:

The opportunity to discuss licensing schedules was appreciated by us and, I'm sure, by the other utilities present on June 13. The situation with the Susquehanna licensing schedule is perplexing and I believe it would be beneficial to review this situation.

In May, 1978, our Licensing and Scheduling people met with NRC's Caseload Forecast Panel to discuss the status of construction, the methods used by PP&L and our Contractor to assess schedule status, and the expected project completion date. The panel assessed the Susquehanna Project as being 6-7 months behind PP&L's official completion date of May, 1980. A date of December, 1980 was chosen by NRC as the completion date, and the staff licensing review was keyed to it.

We, too, have been concerned about the schedule for completion of Susquehanna and have devoted substantial resources to improving our schedule performance. The changes made since May, 1978 have resulted in substantial improvements in the pace of construction, setting some new industry records in bulk installation rates in the process. As a result of this improvement, we requested that the Forecast Panel return to Susquehanna and reassess the construction schedule. This activity took place in May, 1979.

While we have received no notification from you, we understand that the panel's assessment was even more pessimistic than their previous date of December, 1980. Further, we understand your "blue book" schedule specifies June, 1981 as the date for completion of Licensing and identifies December, 1980 as our assessment of fuel load date. The conflict of schedules between our organizations is counterproductive and must be eliminated. We acknowledge that achieving our May, 1980 target fuel load date is unlikely. However, we are confident that we could achieve a September, 1980 fuel load date.

PENNSYLVANIA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

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Dr: Harold Denton
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June 20, 1979

Based on your presentation at the June 13 meeting, we conclude that NRC licensing activities are the critical path for the Susquehanna Project. It appears that even if you develop the additional resources necessary to continue casework, you will not be able to recover schedule sufficiently to support our construction completion date. Consequently, we have decided to reschedule the fuel load date for Susquehanna Unit 1 to December, 1980, the date established by you for the completion of licensing. This also necessitates a change in the fuel load date of Susquehanna Unit 2 from November, 1981 to April, 1982.

In the June 13 meeting, you asked to be informed of the actions taken by utilities in response to the TMI incident. PP&L has initiated an in-house re-evaluation program consisting of the following five areas:

- 1) Review of radiation monitoring program
- 2) Reassessing Emergency Procedures
- 3) Review of the Susquehanna Design
- 4) Re-examining personnel qualifications and training programs
- 5) Broadening PP&L's Communication and public information program.

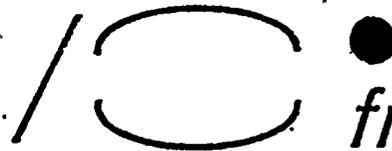
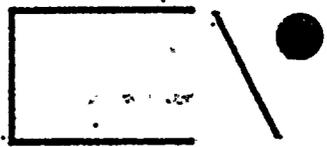
Attached are copies of a news release and an internal bulletin board announcement describing this program. We will, of course, present the results of this effort to the staff at the appropriate time.

Very truly yours,



N. W. Curtis
Project Director-Susquehanna

/jm



from PP&L

CONTACT:

SOURCE: Nancy Bishop (215) 821-5687

Implementation of a five-point program to reassess certain aspects of the Susquehanna nuclear plant has been started by Pennsylvania Power & Light Co.

Announcement of the program was made by PP&L President and Chief Executive Officer Robert K. Campbell following the accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant. It includes reviewing design of the Susquehanna plant; re-examining the radiation monitoring program planned for the plant; reassessing emergency procedures; reviewing the qualifications and training programs for personnel involved in the plant's operation and broadening the company's communication program to keep the public well informed about the plant.

Located in Salem Township north of Berwick, the Susquehanna plant is PP&L's first nuclear facility. Jointly owned with Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc., it is 73 percent complete. The two 1,050,000-kilowatt generating units at the facility are scheduled for operation in 1981 and 1982.

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"This will be just as complete and thorough a review as we can possibly make it," Campbell said. "The people who will conduct it have been carefully selected for their competency in their areas of expertise."

Serving on the committee reviewing the plant's design will be Eugene A. Saltarelli, vice president of NUS Corp., Rockville, MD, chairman; Dr. Gordon E. Robinson, professor of nuclear engineering, Pennsylvania State University, University Park; Hugh L. Campbell III, technical director of EBECO Associates, Hazleton, who is a member of PP&L's Public Advisory Committee; James M. Smith Jr., consulting environmental engineer, General Electric Co., San Jose, CA, and Joseph B. Violette, manager-corporate quality assurance, Bechtel Power Corp., San Francisco, CA.

Included in the group's review will be an assessment, when the information is available, of the hardware failures, operating procedures and their consequences at Three Mile Island and the capability of the Susquehanna plant to withstand similar events; an examination of possible combinations of equipment failure and operator error which were not considered in the original plant design, but which should be considered as a result of the Three Mile Island accident. A review of the data available to the operator and how it is presented during an unusual operating condition, including an analysis of the ability of an operator to respond to multiple alarms and to initiate multiple manual actions to prevent unsafe operating conditions also will be conducted.

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In addition, the group will review the safeguards used at Susquehanna which assure that safety systems function properly and will re-examine the capability of plant systems to respond in a variety of emergencies including the presence of excess hydrogen, fission gases and contaminated water.

Another committee studying the radiation monitoring program will review the existing program detailed in the licensing documents for the plant and will develop recommendations for a more comprehensive system.

Among the things to be considered will be providing monitoring data at sites away from the plant to keep the plant staff, PP&L management, government and civil defense agencies informed in the event of unusual radiation releases. Also, the most recent, state-of-the-art techniques for detection, continuous monitoring and sampling of radiation in the environment will be investigated.

The goal of the group studying Susquehanna emergency procedures is to establish an emergency plan that gives first consideration to public health and safety while meeting the Nuclear Regulatory Commission requirements for an operating license for the plant.

As part of the group's study, the present Susquehanna emergency plan will be re-evaluated. Representatives of local government agencies, Civil Defense and the public will participate in the evaluation.

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Included in the study will be development of an evacuation plan modeled after the successful natural disaster evacuation plans and of a written statement of the roles and responsibilities of various public agencies in case of an emergency at the plant.

Implementation of an effective management control system to insure that the highest qualifications and training standards for Susquehanna personnel are maintained is the goal of the group evaluating personnel qualifications and training. Specific actions to meet this goal are presently being developed.

PP&L's system, procedures and facilities for public communications are being evaluated by a fifth group. Emphasis will be placed on determining and evaluating concerns expressed by customers, employees and the general public and insuring that appropriate responses are developed and communicated.

Results of other task forces will serve as input for this communication process. Consideration also will be given to how to best coordinate and utilize all available specialized services and resources existing within the company.

The importance of providing accurate, consistent and timely information for the communities, employees and the news media will be stressed, not only for the period of construction and operation of the plant, but more importantly, to be able to react immediately to provide all necessary communication services in the event of an emergency.

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SUSQUEHANNA SES TASK FORCES

Implementation of the five-point program to reassess certain aspects of the Susquehanna nuclear plant project has begun.

Announcement of the program was made by PP&L President Robert K. Campbell following the accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant. It includes reviewing the design of Susquehanna; re-examining the radiation monitoring program; reassessing emergency procedures; reviewing qualifications and training programs of those people involved in the Susquehanna project and broadening the communication program to keep the public well informed about the plant.

Serving on the team reviewing the Susquehanna design will be Eugene A. Saltarelli, vice president of NUS Corp., Rockville, MD, chairman; Dr. Gordon E. Robinson, professor of nuclear engineering, Pennsylvania State University, University Park; Hugh L. Campbell III, technical director of EBECO Associates, Hazleton, and a member of PP&L's Public Advisory Committee (PAC); James M. Smith Jr., consulting environmental engineer, General Electric Co., San Jose, CA; Joseph B. Violette, manager-corporate quality assurance, Bechtel Power Corp., San Francisco, CA; Earle M. Mead, PP&L's manager-nuclear plant engineering, and Howard W. Holland, senior project engineer, System Planning.

Included in the team's review will be an assessment, when the information is available, of the hardware failures, operating procedures and their consequences at Three Mile Island and the capability of the Susquehanna plant to withstand similar events; an examination of possible combinations of equipment failure and operator error which were not considered in the original plant design, but which should be considered as a result of the Three Mile Island accident, and a review of the data available to the operator and how it is presented during an unusual operating condition, including an analysis of the ability of an operator to respond to multiple alarms and to initiate multiple manual actions to prevent unsafe operating conditions.

The group also will review the safeguards used at Susquehanna which assure that safety systems function properly and will re-examine the capability of plant systems to respond in a variety of emergencies including the presence of excess hydrogen, fission gases and contaminated water.

James R. Evans, supervisor-system operating computers, is heading the team reviewing the radiation monitoring program. That group will review the existing radiation monitoring programs as detailed in the licensing documents for the plant and will develop recommendations for a more comprehensive system.

Among the things to be considered will be providing monitoring data at sites away from the plant to keep the plant staff, PP&L management, government and civil defense agencies informed in the event of unusual radiation releases. Also, the most recent, state-of-the-art techniques for detection, continuous monitoring and sampling of radiation in the environment will be investigated.

Heading the group studying Susquehanna emergency procedures is Gerald S. Farber, supervisor-community planning. The group's goal is to establish an emergency plan that gives first consideration to public health and safety while meeting the Nuclear Regulatory Commission requirements for an operating license for the plant.

— Lift Up: For More —



As part of the group's study, the present Susquehanna emergency plan will be re-evaluated. Representatives of local government agencies, Civil Defense and the public will participate in the evaluation.

Included in the study will be development of an evacuation plan modeled after the successful natural disaster evacuation plans and of a written statement of the roles and responsibilities of various public agencies in case of an emergency at the plant.

The team evaluating Susquehanna personnel qualifications and training is led by William Scheffley, manager-system operation, assisted by Fred Kornet, manager-corporate administration.

Implementation of an effective management control system to insure that the highest qualifications and training standards for Susquehanna personnel are maintained is the goal of the group. Specific actions to meet this goal are presently being developed.

Under the direction of Leon L. Nonemaker, vice president-Division Operations, the company's system, procedures and facilities for public communications are being evaluated. Emphasis will be placed on determining and evaluating concerns expressed by customers, employees and the general public and insuring that appropriate responses are developed and communicated. Results of the other task forces will serve as valuable input for this communication process. Consideration will, of course, be given to how to best coordinate and utilize all available specialized services and resources existing within the company.

The importance of providing accurate, consistent and timely information for the communities, employees and the news media will be stressed not only for the period of construction and operation of the plant but more importantly, to be able to react immediately to provide all necessary communication services in the event of an emergency.

Coordinating the activities of the five groups is William L. Bohner, manager-Susquehanna project services.

Post on "SYSTEM NEWS" Section
5/10/79

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