

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

December 4, 1979

Sheldon J. Wolfe, Esq., Chairman Atomic Safety and Licensing Board U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, DC 20555 Glenn O. Bright, Esq. Atomic Safety and Licensing Board U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, DC 20555

Dr. David R. Schink Department of Oceanography Texas A & M University College Station, Texas 77840

In the Matter of Offshore Power Systems (Floating Nuclear Power Plants) Docket No. STN 50-437

Gentlemen:

During the hearing session held in the captioned matter on November 2, 1979, this Board ordered the Staff to report to it on November 30, 1979, concerning the schedule for issuance of Supplement 3 to the Safety Evaluation Report (SER).

The undersigned is in receipt of the attached memorandum from the Licensing Project Manager for this application; the memorandum is self-explanatory. As a result of the Commission's action taken subsequent to the November 2 hearing session and the difficulty in scheduling a meeting of the full ACRS committee, we cannot, at this time, provide the Board with a publication date for the next SER supplement. Although we are unable to provide an exact number of man-hours spent on this application subsequent to the Commission's action, the undersigned has been informed that, due to preparation for the ACRS subcommittee meeting held earlier this month to discuss the core ladle design, the Staff has devoted more resources to this application than to any other pending application for a construction permit. Finally, the undersigned has been informed that the impacts to the OPS schedule which are described in the attached memorandum are being felt in the Staff's review of all other construction permit applications.

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As soon as the Staff is able to establish a new publication date for the next SER supplement, we will so notify the Board.

Sincerely,

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Stephen M. Sohinki Counsel for NRC Staff

Attachment As Stated

cc w/attachment: Vincent W. Campbell, Esq. Dr. David L. Hetrick Richard M. Hluchan, Esq. David S. Fleischaker, Esq. Mary M. Cheh, Esq. Barton Z. Cowan, Esq. Thomas M. Daugherty, Esq. Mr. John H. Williamson City of Brigantine Harold P. Green, Esq. Carl Valore, Esq. Dr. Willard W. Rosenberg Dr. Glenn L. Paulson Mr. Harold P. Abrams Mr. Mitchell Attalla Keith A. Onsdorff, Esq. Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board Docketing and Service Section

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Docket No. STN 50-437

MEMORANDUM FOR:	Steven M. Sohinki, Office of the Executive Legal Director
THRU:	Robert L. Baer, Chief, Light Water Reactors Branch No. 2, DPM
FROM:	Ralph A. Birkel, Project Manager, Light Water Reactors Branch No. 2, DPM

REVIEW SCHEDULE FOR OFFSHORE POWER SYSTEMS ML APPLICATION SUBJECT:

This is to inform you that pursuant to the Commission's decision to delay and not grant any operating or construction (manufacturing) licenses until it adopts new safety, siting and emergency standards, the issue date of the final supplement to the FNP SER in March 1980 as announced to the ASLB on November 2, 1979 is in jeopardy. Manpower within NRR is being directed towards synthesizing a statement of goals and commensurate action plans based upon the recommendation and comments from the Kemery Commission Report, ACRS letters, the forthcoming Rogovin Report and Congressional concerns as well as other sources. The outgrowth of these efforts will provide a basis for the Commission to resume our licensing efforts albeit using new standards. These standards will be applied to the OPS application.

During this period, the extent of the staff review of the OPS application will probably be limited and will depend on the availability of manpower resources considering the activities described above and other staff reviews. In addition our anticipated meeting with the full ACRS Committee in December 1979 has been postponed until some time next year.

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Ralph A. Birkel Light Water Reactors Branch No. 2 Division of Project Management

ccs: D. Vassallo R. Mattson D. Muller S. Varga R. Baer C. Haupt

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