



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

May 31, 1979

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

In the Matter of
Consumers Power Company
(Midland Plant, Units 1 and 2)
Docket Nos. 50-329, 50-330 (Remand Proceeding)



Gentlemen:

Enclosed for the information of the Licensing Board and the parties are NRC Staff Memoranda of May 11, 15 and 16, 1979 on the subject of the estimated construction completion date for Midland Unit 2.

The Staff has revised its previously estimated construction completion date of November, 1980. The Staff is currently projecting, for planning purposes, a construction completion date of November, 1981. This latter date will be the subject of further review and possible revision. The Staff will keep the Board and the parties informed.

Sincerely,

Richard K. Hoefling
Richard K. Hoefling
Counsel for NRC Staff

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UNITED STATES
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MAY 15 1979

Docket Nos.: 50-329/330

MEMORANDUM FOR: D. B. Vassallo, Assistant Director for Light Water Reactors,
Division of Project Management

THRU: Steven A. Varga, Chief, Light Water Reactors Branch No. 4,
Division of Project Management

FROM: Darl Hood, Project Manager, Light Water Reactors Branch
No. 4, Division of Project Management

SUBJECT: ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION DATE FOR MIDLAND UNIT 2

The annual update of construction completion dates by the NRC staff's Caseload Forecast Panel has projected a slip for Midland Unit 2, the first of the Midland units scheduled for construction. As indicated in a previous letter to the remand board concerning an earlier projection by the Panel, scheduler estimates for Midland Unit 2, although only a rough indication, could potentially be relevant and material to the Midland remand proceeding. This matter may also be of interest to the OL hearing board for information purposes since it influences the staff's schedule for completion of the Midland radiological safety review and may provide the bases for more reliable schedules yet to be developed. Accordingly, I recommend that both the remand and OL boards be informed of this matter.

Background information concerning the previous and current estimates of the Panel for Midland Unit 2 is given below.

Previous Estimates

On March 8, 1978, the NRC staff forwarded a memorandum from Roger S. Boyd, Director of Project Management, dated March 7, 1978, concerning differing staff analyses of estimated construction completion dates for Midland Unit 2. The memorandum noted that such internally-generated information could potentially be relevant and material to the Midland remand proceeding. A detailed plant specific analysis was subsequently undertaken and documented in a "Summary of March 21-22, 1978 Meeting and Site Visit" dated March 27, 1978. In its detailed analysis, the NRC staff concluded that the applicant's proposed construction schedule, based on the project status at that time, appeared to be realistic and achievable, although it may be a bit on the optimistic side.

In its evaluation of a request for an extension of construction for Midland Plant Units 1 and 2 which accompanied the extension request of March 17, 1978, the NRC staff again noted that based upon the estimates required to perform the remaining work by the Office of Project Management

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and by the NRC staff's Caseload Forecast Panel, the applicant's earliest estimate of the time to complete construction was not unreasonable, though slightly optimistic. However, the staff further noted that in the event of unusual difficulties in correcting the settlement of certain structures recently discovered to be occurring at the site, this estimate may have to be revised. By letter of April 24, 1979, responding to the staff's 10 CFR 50.54(f) requests regarding the plant fill matter, the applicant advised that remedial actions for structures in addition to the diesel generator building will be performed. The schedule for the remedial actions is not yet known.

Current Estimate

The attached memorandum from Ms. S. Kari advises that the most recent estimate for Midland Unit 2 by the NRC staff's Caseload Forecast Panel suggests a delay of 32-33 months beyond the applicant's estimate for completion of construction, but that a more precise estimate will be undertaken once other schedular factors such as the impact of the soil settlement matter and of the Three-Mile Island, Unit 2 accident can be evaluated. In the meantime, the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation is using the Panel's latest estimate of November 1981 for Midland Unit 2 completion for purposes of planning and priorities.



Darl Hood, Project Manager
Light Water Reactors Branch No. 4
Division of Project Management

Attachment:
As stated

cc w/att.:
✓ W. Olmstead
R. Boyd
O. Lynch
S. Kari
I&E

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