



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

DEC 29 1978

Docket No. STN 50-591

Mr. E. P. O'Donnell, Nuclear Licensing
Ebasco Services, Inc.
Two Rector Street
New York, New York 10006

Dear Mr. O'Donnell:

SUBJECT: ESSAR REVIEW SCHEDULE (STN 50-591)

We have established a revised schedule for review of the Standard Safety Analysis Report, ESSAR, which was submitted as part of the Ebasco Services Application for Preliminary Design Approval (PDA) of a balance-of-plant (BOP) design. A summary of the key target milestone dates of that schedule in network format is provided as an enclosure for your information.

As discussed in a meeting between your representatives and members of the NRC staff on October 27, 1978, this revised schedule reflects the staff's best efforts to utilize manpower, as available in 1979-1980, for review of your design. Serious concern was expressed by your representatives at that time that the projected PDA date for ESSAR established under this schedule was many months later than had been planned by Ebasco at the time the ESSAR application was submitted. We recognize, of course, that this is a legitimate concern and regret the delay involved. As was discussed at the October meeting, this delayed schedule reflects principally (1) delays which have occurred in completing the review of, and in establishing staff positions in critical interface areas for, one of the mating NSSS designs (RESAR-414) referenced in ESSAR, (2) delay in initiating the ESSAR review, even after completion of the RESAR-414 review, due to serious resource problems in some critical review areas within the staff, and (3) the priority ranking assigned to standardized designs which have not been referenced by a utility in a CP application.

Further consideration was given, subsequent to the October 27 meeting, to the question of relative priority ranking and scheduling of the project with respect to other balance-of-plant, construction permit and operating license applications currently in-house. The conclusion again, however, was that the priority which has been assigned to the ESSAR project (currently 30 out of 32), and the review schedule which has been established for it (culminating in PDA issuance in August 1980), do properly reflect all of the demands of the current situation. I regret that this schedule cannot be improved upon, given the current staff workload and available resources. I

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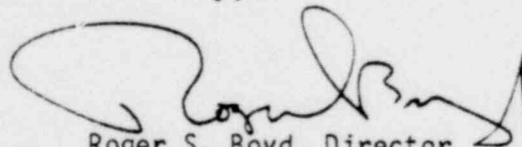
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can assure you, however, that the status of the ESSAR project will be monitored closely by the cognizant project management staff and reviewed periodically, as required by the recently established Licensing Schedule Review Committee, to help assure that no further significant slippages occur in the ESSAR Schedule.

As a final point, although not indicated explicitly on the summary schedule enclosed, the ESSAR design will be reviewed concurrently with respect to the three mating NSSS designs referenced; the combined summary schedule enclosed will be broken out into three separate networks when the staff review resumes. Any matters of disagreement or areas of uncertainty regarding the ESSAR review which might arise should be discussed with the Licensing Project Manager, Mr. James C. Snell. If Mr. Snell cannot resolve such matters himself, he will arrange for a meeting with appropriate management to discuss them. This will also help to avoid further unnecessary schedule delays.

Many of the milestones of the staff review require specific input, preparation, or participation from you, such as responses to questions, ACRS meetings, and responses to public and agency comments. For this reason, and also in view of the nature of the discussions at the October meeting, we believe that you should critically review the dates associated with these key milestones and advise us as to whether you feel the dates are realistic or should be adjusted. If you feel that any further discussion is required regarding any aspect of this schedule, please feel free to contact me, or arrangements for any further discussions can be made through Mr. Snell, if you prefer.

Sincerely,



Roger S. Boyd, Director
Division of Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
ESSAR Summary Review Schedule