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February 3, 1980

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Chairman
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Board Panel
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Ivan W. Smith, Esq.
Chairman
Atomic Safety and Licensing
Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555



Re: Consumers Power Company
(Midland Plant, Units 1 and 2)
Docket Nos. 50-329, 50-330

Gentlemen:

As counsel for Consumers Power Company in the pending construction permit and operating license proceedings for the Midland Plant, we are informing the Licensing Boards and the parties of a revised schedule and cost estimate for the nuclear facility based upon updated information which the Company has recently received from its architect-constructor, Bechtel Power Corporation.

Bechtel's projected fuel load date for Unit 2 is now April, 1984; the corresponding date for Unit 1 is September, 1984. Given this schedule, Consumers Power estimates that the commercial operation dates for the Midland Plant will be September, 1984 for Unit 2, March, 1985 for Unit 1 (electric) and May, 1985 for Unit 1 (steam). Last November, the Company had announced that the previously projected fuel load dates of June, 1981 for Unit 2 and November, 1981 for Unit 1 would be subject to further delay.

Based upon the revised fuel load dates, Bechtel has made a new estimate of contractor costs. Consumers Power has completed a preliminary review of this data and

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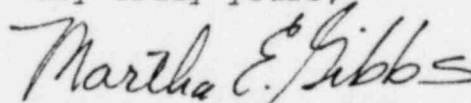
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now estimates that the total cost of the Midland Plant will be approximately \$3.1 billion. The previous estimate of the project's total cost, made in 1976, was \$1.67 billion.

The Company has not yet adopted the Bechtel report, and is currently performing a review of Bechtel's cost and schedule assumptions, the Company's costs other than contractor costs, licensing assumptions, and alternative courses of action. The Licensing Boards and the parties will be advised of the results of this review.

Very truly yours,


Martha E. Gibbs *cem*

MEG:cem

cc: Service List