



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

March 10, 1980

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Atomic Safety and Licensing Board  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

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In the Matter of  
PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY  
(Pebble Springs Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2)  
Docket Nos. 50-514 and 50-515

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Dear Members of the Board:

Reference is made to my letter to the Licensing Board dated February 22, 1980 and Counsel for Applicant's letter of February 15, 1980, which advised the Board and parties that the proposed Pebble Springs Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, has been rescheduled "for the 1990's". Applicant's letter also asked "for a hearing to close the record on site suitability issues as soon as reasonably possible and for the Board to issue a partial decision on these matters".

The NRC Staff supports, in the circumstances of the subject proceeding, Applicant's request for a partial initial decision on site suitability matters. (See Potomac Electric Power Company (Douglas Point Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1 and 2), ALAB-277, 1 NRC 539 (1975); and Houston Lighting and Power Company (Allens Creek Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1 and 2), LBP-75-66; 2 NRC 776 (1975)). The Staff also suggests the following procedures which, in part, modify the positions and schedules we announced at the December 19, 1979 Conference of the Parties held in Portland, Oregon, to take into account subsequent developments.

1. The Staff's Final Supplement to the FES (on alternative sites) is, as previously stated, scheduled to be issued on or about March 31, 1980. Intervenors should have 30 days from the date of issuance of the document in question, to indicate by the filing of written contentions, which comply with the requirements of 10 CFR §2.714, whether the conclusions reached in the document in question are contested.

2. In the event Intervenors have any contentions, which are admitted by the Board, discovery and hearing schedules should be set by the Board after a conference call with the parties.

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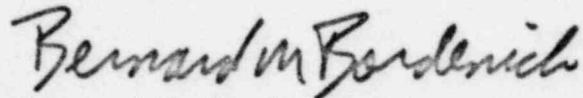
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3. In the event Intervenors do not advance any contentions on the Staff's revised alternative sites analysis, or if advanced and such contentions are not admitted by the Board (and the Board has no questions as to the Staff's analysis), a schedule for the submission of proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law should be set by the Board after a conference call with the parties.

4. The previous positions and schedules advanced by the Staff on December 19, 1979, as to the following matters are now moot by virtue of Applicant's announcement and subsequent request for a partial initial decision on site suitability: (a) financial qualifications (or any other radiological health and safety issues), (b) Appendix I (or zero release), (c) "need for power", (d) economics of coal versus nuclear alternatives (or any other subject matter which is not related to site suitability issues).

The Staff suggests that the Board provide a ten-day period within which other parties may, if they so desire, respond to this letter.

Sincerely,



Bernard M. Bordenick  
Counsel for NRC Staff

cc:  
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