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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

May 14, 1979

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POOR ORIGINAL

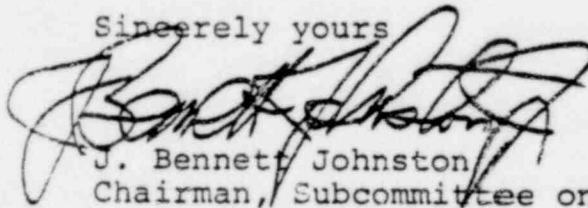
Honorable Joseph M. Hendrie
Chairman
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
1717 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Subsequent to the hearing on May 10 on nuclear waste management and facility siting, several questions were submitted for your written response by members of the Committee. These questions are attached.

In order to expedite the printing of these hearings it would be very helpful to have your reply by close of business Friday, May 25, 1979.

Sincerely yours



J. Bennett Johnston
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy
Regulation

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QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR DOMENICI

For Chairman Hendrie:

POOR ORIGINAL

1. Does NRC support the licensing of TRU waste?
2. Does the source of TRU waste in any way affect the desirability of licensing? In other words, does the fact that the TRU waste for WIPP is a defense waste in any way diminish the desirability of licensing this facility or waste?
3. Can you briefly describe what you would consider to be the scenario for licensing the WIPP facility, with and without spent fuel?
 - A. Specifically, will the waste be licensed or the facility?
 - B. If the waste is to be licensed do you believe that can be done with defense TRU without endangering the National Security?
4. In your statement you say the success of any national nuclear waste policy requires public participation. Have you been in communication with the State of New Mexico in regard to the WIPP facility and in regards to what specific issues?

2158 094

Questions for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission

- 1) What is the status of the preparation of the Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement on Handling and Storage of Spent Light Water Power Reactor Fuel--NUREG-0404? When will this statement be completed?
- 2) What is the status of the Part 72 rulemaking on regulations for the licensing of Independent Spent Fuel Storage Facilities? What generic safety and licensing issues has the Commission staff identified thus far in the rulemaking process? What is the expected schedule for promulgation of the final rule?
- 3) What is the status of the materials license renewal for the General Electric Morris Operation Fuel Storage Installation(License No. SNM-1265)? What has been the operating history of this facility? What is the status of the proposed modification of the facility to expand its storage capacity and noticed in the Federal Register(Docket 70-1308)? Its present storage capacity?
- 4) What is the license status of the spent fuel pool at the Western New York Nuclear Service Center operated by Nuclear Fuel Services? Its spent fuel capability?
- 5) What is the license status, and the scope of review completed thus far, of the Allied-General Nuclear Services reprocessing complex at Barnwell, S.C.? What is the design capability for spent fuel storage of this facility?
- 6) What is the review status and scope of review completed for the Exxon Nuclear spent fuel storage and reprocessing complex planned for Oak Ridge, TN?
- 7) How many applications has the Commission received for expansion of spent fuel storage capacity by licensees operating or constructing nuclear powerplants? What is the status of these applications? How many have been approved? What has been the length of time required for Commission approval?
- 7a) Identify each application, its status, and type and extent of modification. Comment on the status of any interventions in the licensing review of these spent fuel modifications and identify and comment on the safety and public health issues raised in these interventions referencing where possible Licensing Board proceedings.
- 8) How many applications has the Commission received for transshipment of spent fuel; a) between pools of the same utility, b) between pools of different utilities, c) between a utility and an independent away-from-reactor pool? Please identify shipments proposed between different reactor types and comment on the technical issues underlying or preventing such shipments. What is the status of these applications?
- 9) What are the Commission's regulatory requirements and regulatory position concerning the design and capacity of spent fuel storage at nuclear powerplants? How much capacity does the Commission require for individual and multi-unit sites? What are the Commission's requirements for the maintenance of full-core reserve for powerplant spent fuel storage pools? Under what conditions is a licensee required to remove the entire core load of fuel?
- 10) What is the review and licensing status of the Stone and Webster Engineering Corporation Topical Report SWECO-7601 "Interim Spent Fuel Storage Facility"? What is the procedure for utilities to reference this report? Are there any reactor sites or situations where the facility outlined in this report could not be constructed and licensed? Are there other such proposals under review?