



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

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The Honorable Richard A. Gephardt
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gephardt:

In your letter of May 30, 1980, you expressed concern about the assignment of an NRC project manager for the Callaway Nuclear Power Station and delays in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) review of the operating license applications for the nuclear power plant being constructed in Missouri.

Although there has been an unrecoverable disruption in our normal review process as a result of TMI-2, we are endeavoring to minimize licensing delays as much as possible. Our success in this endeavor will depend heavily on our ability to augment the staff resources over the coming years. Given the heavy demands for talented manpower resources on the nuclear industry that have arisen in the aftermath of the TMI-2 accident, this may prove to be a difficult task. Nonetheless, we are moving ahead.

In the case of the Callaway application, I am pleased to inform you that a project manager has been assigned and that the acceptance review, which must precede docketing, was initiated during the week of May 5, 1980. Once the application is docketed, we will be able to develop the full review schedule for the application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William J. Dircks".

William J. Dircks
Acting Executive Director
for Operations

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RICHARD A. GEPHARDT
30 DISTRICT, MISSOURI

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
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May 30, 1980

Mr. Harold Denton
Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Mr. Denton:

In my communication with Union Electric of St. Louis, Missouri, several issues have been brought to my attention relating to the Callaway Nuclear Power Station.

A major concern at this point involves the assignment of a Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) project manager for the Callaway Nuclear Power Station. As you know, for the last six weeks, since mid-April, the post was unoccupied. A related matter has to do with the NRC's scheduling at the Callaway Plant. The difficulty involved in obtaining an operating license, which has not yet been issued, could result in the plant standing complete but idle. As you know, the application for an operating license was submitted in October, 1979, but NRC has not yet docketed it. Of course, the delay in naming a project manager may be another indication that the license might not be obtained in a timely manner.

Although the assignment of a project manager is not a legislative requirement of the Atomic Energy Act, nor a part of NRC's written regulations in Part 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, it is a part of the system of licensing the Office of Reactor Regulation (NRR). Under the reorganization that took place within the NRR on March 19, 1980, giving the project manager a more central role in the licensing process, I would urge you to consider a full-time project manager at the Callaway Nuclear Power Station as well as the operating license request.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours very truly,

Rich Gephardt

Richard A. Gephardt

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