



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

November 3, 1989

The Honorable Bob Whittaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1605

Dear Congressman Whittaker:

I am responding to your letter of October 6, 1989 (your file number 651-88-MM), addressed to Ms. Christina Bach of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Ms. Bach referred your letter to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), since it concerns the decommissioning of nuclear power plants regulated by NRC. Specifically, your letter requests answers to two questions raised by a constituent of yours, Mr. David Hosman, of Pittsburg, Kansas.


The first question asks, "How many nuclear power plants have been decommissioned in the last five years?" During the last five years, no NRC-licensed power plants have been fully decommissioned. However, the Department of Energy has almost completed decommissioning the government-owned Shippingport Atomic Power Station in Pennsylvania.

For a nuclear power plant, decommissioning is a lengthy process. It begins when a plant permanently ceases power operation, and ends when a plant and its site have been decontaminated to a condition allowing unrestricted use. This process can take many years; it also can include a long interim period of inactive storage to allow radioactivity to decay before dismantlement. An enclosure provides a list of NRC-licensed power plants which are permanently shut down.

The second question asks, "How many nuclear power plants have been granted an extension on required decommissioning and continue to operate?" No licensee has requested or been granted an extension of a full-term operating license so that its power reactor might continue to operate. Such an action has not yet been needed, since all operating power plants have many years before their license expires. The first scheduled license termination for an operating power reactor is November 4, 1997, for the Yankee-Rowe power plant in Massachusetts.

I trust this reply responds to Mr. Hosman's concerns.

Sincerely,


James M. Taylor
Acting Executive Director
for Operations

Enclosure:
List of permanently shut down power plants

CCS 2
/1

PERMANENTLY SHUT DOWN U.S. NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS*

<u>PLANT NAME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE LAST OPERATED</u>
HUMBOLDT BAY UNIT 3	EUREKA, CA	7/76
INDIAN POINT UNIT 1	BUCHANAN, NY	10/74
VALLECITOS BWR	PLEASANTON, CA	12/63
DRESDEN UNIT 1	MORRIS, IL	10/78
LA CROSSE	LA CROSSE, WI	4/87
FERMI UNIT 1	FRENCHTOWN TOWNSHIP, MI	9/72
PEACH BOTTOM UNIT 1	YORK CO., PA	10/74
PATHFINDER	SIOUX FALLS, SD	9/67
FORT ST. VRAIN	PLATTEVILLE, CO	8/89

*Note: Three other power plants are currently shut down but are not yet committed to final decommissioning. These are (1) Rancho Seco, in California; (2) Shoreham, in New York; and (3) Three Mile Island Unit 2, in Pennsylvania.



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JGreeves
 SWeiss, NRR
 JFunches
 JLepre
 PERickson, NRR

KBangart
 HThompson
 CJenkins
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* SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCE

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OFC : LLRB *	: LLRB *	: LLRB *	: TEDITOR *	: OGC *	: NRR *	: LLWM
NAME: DMartin/es	: Johnson	: MBell	: EKraus	: S Treby	: SWeiss	: JGreeves
DATE: 10/26/89	: 10/26/89	: 10/27/89	: 10/27/89	: 10/27/89	: 10/27/89	: 1/1/89
OFC : LLWM	: NMSS	: NMSS	: DEDS	: EDO	:	
NAME: RBangart	: GARotto	: RBornero	: HThompson	: JTaylor	:	
DATE: 1/12/89	: 1/13/89	: 1/13/89	: 1/13/89	: 1/13/89	:	