



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

AUG 16 1978

50-346

MEMORANDUM FOR: Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

THRU: Roger S. Boyd, Director, Division of Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: John F. Stolz, Chief, Light Water Reactors Branch
No. 1, Division of Project Management, NRR

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MEETING WITH APPLICANTS TO DISCUSS REVIEW
SCHEDULE MATTERS

At the request of Mr. Harold Denton, Director, NRR, a meeting was held in Bethesda, Maryland on August 10, 1978 with the group of applicants identified in Enclosure 1. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss review schedule matters and staff resources. This was the third of three such meetings. The first meeting, with a group of applicants consisting largely of those with operating license applications which are currently receiving the highest priority, was held on August 1, 1978, and is summarized in D. B. Vassallo's memorandum to you dated August 4, 1978. The second meeting, with another group of applicants consisting largely of those with operating license applications which are currently receiving somewhat less priority than those of the first group, was held on August 9, 1978 and is summarized in John F. Stolz' memorandum to you dated August , 1978. This third meeting was with yet another group of applicants consisting largely of those with construction permit applications.

Mr. Denton opened the meeting with some general remarks by stating that these meetings constitute somewhat of an experiment in apprising applicants of review schedule problems and eliciting their collective views on establishing the accuracy of plant construction completion and fuel loading dates. Mr. Denton explained that the staff's primary interest in these dates is to establish priority of review to meet the staff's commitment of completing the operating license review by the fuel loading date (i.e., the date construction of the facility has been completed in accordance with the application).

Mr. Denton explained that in order to provide the staff with realistic construction completion dates, we have utilized the NRC's Caseload Forecast Panel. The Forecast Panel, assisted by NRR Project Managers and Inspection and Enforcement Inspectors, has made numerous visits to plant sites to discuss schedular matters with utilities and attempt to independently arrive at a construction completion date. Mr. Denton said that because in many cases there was a disparity between the Forecast Panel's projection and that of the utility, he has found some utility concern with the staff's attempt to

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establish construction completion dates. Many of the utility representatives present indicated some apprehension in having the staff develop these dates and publish them because there are many other considerations involved in a utility establishing and trying to adhere to a scheduled fuel load date. Several of the utility representatives present requested that we consider establishing a more viable means for appealing the construction completion dates developed by the Forecast Panel.

Mr. Denton stated that we need information such as that developed by the Forecast Panel to establish a priority review list since we have to allocate the available staff resources to higher priority reviews. Mr. Denton pointed out that although we anticipate some increase in the size of the staff in Fiscal Year 1980, no significant change is expected in Fiscal Year 1979. Mr. Denton went on to explain that operating plants have the highest priority, but after that the next highest priority is for operating license reviews with the objective of preventing delay of staff review beyond the scheduled fuel loading date. Copies of the staff's current priority listing for case work (Enclosure 2) were distributed to the participants. Mr. Denton stated that he recognized that this was an early attempt at listing the priorities, but had called this meeting to share with the utilities the difficulties of scheduling reviews and to ask their input or help in establishing a priority listing acceptable to applicants and the staff.

Mr. Denton and other members of the staff present explained how the staff is attempting to use the priority listing. Dr. Mattson explained that for the Division of Systems Safety, he has forecast the resources of each reviewer six months in advance, consistent with the Division of Project Management's priority. He explained how this is broken down to establish how each reviewer spends his or her time on a weekly basis over a six-month period.

After this, Mr. Denton turned to the matter of resolving safety issues which appear to consistently recur on current operating license reviews and seem to be the pace-setting items in completing the review in time for fuel loading. Mr. Denton explained that there are a number of these common problems which seem to be delaying operating license reviews and suggested that the applicants singly or collectively put more effort into resolving these matters. Some of the issues which were used as examples are environmental qualification of safety equipment, asymmetric loads and computer protection systems. The staff explained that around 1975, DSS needed about 500 man days to review an operating license application. Since the issuance

of the Standard Review Plan, and with the increased involvement of the public, and the experience from a growing number of operating plants, DSS review now requires about 1700 man days. Dr. Mattson explained, however, that for Arkansas Unit 2, his staff review required 2400 man days, the main reason being the complexity of the core protection calculator system review. Mr. Denton explained that the staff could just not afford to continue to put this heavy involvement in one review area. Mr. Denton suggested that applicants can help in reducing this effort by improving the timeliness of their input to the staff and assuring that it is complete and responsive. He also suggested, as an example, that applicants could help in reducing the staff's equipment qualification audit effort by performing their own independent audit prior to submittal for staff review to further assure that the equipment has been properly qualified.

Mr. Denton pointed out that the first two groups of applicants, which consisted largely of those with operating license applications, had generally agreed that scheduled fuel load dates should be retained as the primary basis for establishing priorities. Mr. Denton and other members of the staff present went on to explain that in the case of construction permit applications, priorities are primarily established by the Directors of DSS and DPM considering such factors as the potential for public hearings adversely impacting the construction schedule, as well as the scheduled fuel load date.

Mr. Denton then suggested that the industry participants might wish to reflect on how they could assist in establishing review priorities or other means for improving the licensing process and later submit written comments. Mr. Denton indicated that we would await the views of all three groups of applicants before attempting to establish any different method for setting review priorities. He further indicated that we expect to issue a revised priority list in September and to update the list at, possibly, three-month intervals.

Mr. Denton indicated that we are considering making the Blue Book available to the public, although some modifications might have to be made to it to make it more understandable. While the utility representatives present generally agreed that receiving copies of the Blue Book schedules would be very helpful, several expressed apprehension about difficulties in preliminary judgements regarding issues and schedules that potentially may adversely affect their utilities' positions in the stock or bond markets.

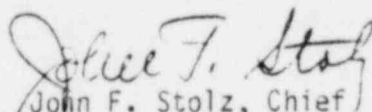
Harold R. Denton

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Mr. Denton also encouraged utility management meetings with the staff management, particularly during the latter course of a review, to resolve major outstanding review issues. Through past experience, the staff has found this to be a very effective mechanism.

Both the staff and utility representatives seemed to think that this was a productive discussion.



John F. Stolz, Chief
Light Water Reactors Branch No. 1
Division of Project Management

Enclosures:

1. Attendance List
2. Staff's Current Priority Listing for Case work

cc w/enclosures:
Attendees

ENCLOSURE 1

UTILITY MEETING WITH H. DENTON
ON SCHEDULING
AUGUST 10, 1978

NRC

H. Denton
R. Boyd
D. Muller
R. DeYoung
J. Stolz
C. Thomas

UTILITIES

Vaughn L. Conrad	Public Service of Oklahoma
Frank J. Meyer	Public Service of Oklahoma
William E. Barberich	Pennsylvania Power & Light
James E. Mecca	Puget Sound Power & Light
Warren J. Ferguson	Puget Sound Power & Light
John L. Frewing	Portland General Electric
Wm. J. Lindblad	Portland General Electric
H. Lorenz	Gilbert/Commonwealth
C. D. Williams	Gilbert/Commonwealth
B. M. Miller	Ohio Edison Co.
E. C. Novak	Toledo Edison Co.
L. E. Roe	Toledo Edison
J. Harrington	New England Power Co.
J. Stevens	New England Power Co.
W. J. L. Kennedy	Stone & Webster Eng. Corp.
R. T. Schomer	Power Authority of the State of N.Y.
S. B. Jacobs	Stone & Webster Eng. Corp.
C. Reed	Commonwealth Edison
N. W. Curtis	Pennsylvania Power & Light

ENCLOSURE 2

LWR PRIORITY LISTING - CASEWORK

<u>Priority</u>	<u>Case</u>	<u>Next Event</u>
1	Davis Besse 1 Cook 2 North Anna 1 TMI-2 Hatch-2	Operating plants still under cognizance of LWR.
2	ANO-2	OL
3	Diablo Canyon 1&2	SER Supplement
4	McGuire	Hearing
5	Shoreham	SER
6	Zimmer	SER
7	Sequoyah	SER
8	Salem 2	SER
9	San Onofre 2&3	SER
10	Midland	Q2
11	Allens Creek	SER
12	New England 1&2	ACRS
13	RESAR-414	ACRS
14	Davis Besse 2&3	ACRS
15	Erie 1&2	ACRS
16	LaSalle	Q2
17	Watts Bar	Q2
18	Summer	Q2
19	Fermi-2	Q1
20	SWESSAR/BSAR-205	SER
21	BOPSSAR Rev.	Q1
22	Farley 2	N/S
23	Palo Verde 4&5	N/S
24	GIBBSAR	Q1
25	Haven	N/S
26	WPPSS 2	N/S
27	Susquehanna 1&2	N/S
28	Grand Gulf 1&2	N/S
29	South Texas 1&2	N/S
30	Comanche Peak	N/S
31	Bellefonte	N/S
32	ESSAR	N/S
33	GAISSAR	N/S
34	AGS	Hold

In addition, the following plants are in hearing with limited issues.
Required work on these cases will necessarily be of high priority
but should be very limited in scope.

Pebble Springs 1&2
Skagit
Black Fox 1&2
Yellow Creek
Greene County
FNP

MEETING SUMMARY DISTRIBUTION

✓ Central Files 50-346
NRC PDR
LOCAL PDRs of Utilities
NRR Reading Involved
H. Denton
E. Case
R. Boyd
R. DeYoung
D. Vassallo
D. Skovholt
W. Gammill
J. Stolz
R. Baer
O. Parr
S. Varga
W. Haass
R. Houston
L. Crocker
D. Crutchfield
F. Williams
R. Mattson
D. Muller
M. Grossman
IE (7)
ACRS (16)
L. Rubenstein
R. Denise
C. Thomas
S. Kari
H. Berkow

J. Knight
D. Ross
R. Tedesco
R. Bosnak
S. Pawlicki
I. Sihweil
K. Kniel
T. Novak
Z. Rosztoczy
W. Butler
V. Benaroya
Chief, ICSB
V. Moore
R. Vollmer
M. Ernst
F. Rosa
EP Branch Chief
D. Bunch
J. Collins
W. Kreger
G. Lear
B. Youngblood
J. Stepp
L. Hulman
C. Heltemes
TIC
Utility Attendees (see list)