



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

OFFICE OF THE
CHAIRMAN

June 23, 1980

The Honorable Nancy Landon Kassebaum
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kassebaum:

In your letter of May 16, 1980, you expressed concern about delays in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) review of the operating license applications for two nuclear power plants being constructed in Missouri and Kansas. Specifically, you indicated the financial impacts which may result from licensing delays. In addition, you requested that the NRC staff initiate and develop a schedule for the timely review and licensing of the Callaway and Wolf Creek plants.

The Commission and its staff are concerned about the Callaway and Wolf Creek applications and have recently taken steps to minimize the potential for delays. The following actions have occurred for both plants: (1) the Final Safety Analysis Report acceptance reviews were initiated during the week of May 5, 1980, and the completion date for the acceptance review has been scheduled for July 1980, and (2) the environmental report acceptance review completion dates have been scheduled for September 1980.

We are currently developing the full review schedules for the licensing of all docketed applications, including the Callaway and Wolf Creek plants. Although there has been an unrecoverable disruption in our normal review process as a result of the TMI-2 accident, we are endeavoring to minimize further licensing delays as much as possible.

I am mindful of the economic hardship that can occur as a result of delays in the operation of nuclear power plants and am working to avoid any unnecessary delays while at the same time giving priority to my responsibilities to ensure continued protection of the health and safety of the public. I am pleased to have had this opportunity to respond to your comments and trust that this information is responsive to your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. F. Ahearne".

John F. Ahearne
Chairman

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