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Congress of the United States

House of Representatibes

Washington, B.C. 20515

DOCKET NUMBER PROD. & UTIL FAC. September 17, 1980



Honorable John Ahearne, Chairman Nuclear Regulation Commission Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Ahearne:

Houston Lighting and Power Company has complained that the NRC has delayed setting a hearing for a construction permit on a new nuclear plant.

The Allens Creek Nuclear Project would be built in the Tenth Congressional District of Texas which I represent. HL&P has worked several years on this project. The local community of Wallis, Texas has expressed a positive view toward the project.

I do not want to pass judgement on the merits of the case, and I realize that a hearing should be thorough and explore all sides of the issues. However, I would simply ask that the agency move ahead and set a date for a hearing. I realize the NRC has sought to fully reconsider all operations and procedures in the wake of Three Mile Island, and I understand you are working without the confirmation as yet of the new permanent chairman.

However, if the agency can make the decisions which enabled VEPCO to begin operating its second North Anna plant, I would think you could either reconstitute the licensing board or relieve the members of other duties and set a construction hearing for HL&P.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

JJP/ew

Acknowledged by card 9