



LONG ISLAND LIGHTING COMPANY

SHOREHAM NUCLEAR POWER STATION

P.O. BOX 618, NORTH COUNTRY ROAD • WADING RIVER, N.Y. 11792

August 21, 1980

SNRC-498

Mr. Darrell G. Eisenhut, Director
Division of Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

SHOREHAM NUCLEAR POWER STATION - UNIT 1
DOCKET NO. 50-322

Dear Mr. Eisenhut:

In your letter of July 11, 1980, you requested that we advise you of our present construction completion (fuel load) date for Shoreham. Our current fuel load schedule is the period between June 1 and September 1, 1982. Your Caseload Forecast Panel met at the site on May 8, 1980 and established a fuel load date of September, 1982, which is in reasonable agreement with our current fuel load window. However, as presented to that Caseload Forecast Panel, every effort is being made to have the plant available for fuel load by June 1, 1982.

Your letter further stated that the purpose of your request was to "establish (your) licensing priorities based on the latest available data." We wish to take this opportunity to stress to you the urgency that the Shoreham licensing proceedings continue on a priority schedule, and that the NRC Staff's Safety Evaluation Report (SER) be issued as expeditiously as possible.

Seven (7) years after the 1973 Arab oil embargo, LILCO's generating capacity remains totally oil-fired. The Company continues to generate all of its baseload as well as intermediate and peaking power with oil. And of that oil, more than 90% is imported. As a result, LILCO's system is exposed to the whims of international oil politics. The U. S. balance of payments is worsened by the millions of dollars that LILCO pays annually to foreign oil suppliers. And the Company's customers must pay for very expensive oil-fired electricity.

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When the Shoreham Nuclear Power Station is physically and legally ready to operate, the situation will materially improve. Shoreham's 820 megawatts will displace 8,000,000 barrels of oil each year and produce in excess of 25% of the electricity likely to be generated on Long Island in 1983, its first year of commercial operation.

LILCO is increasingly concerned, however, that the station will be physically ready to load fuel before the conclusion of its operating license proceeding, already 4-1/2 years old. Since it is very likely that this proceeding will result in an NRC finding that Shoreham complies with all relevant regulatory requirements, a delayed operating license would be quite unfortunate and contrary to the needs of our national energy policy and LILCO's customers.

As you may already be aware, administrative proceedings regarding nuclear power on Long Island have historically been lengthy:

The first prehearing conference for the Shoreham Construction Permit proceeding occurred in March 1970. The AEC evidentiary hearings then took 70 days over a 2-1/2-year period, and a companion New York State proceeding lasted 21 days in 1971-72. The AEC's initial decision was issued on April 12, 1973 -- 37 months after the first prehearing conference.

The New York State proceeding concerning the proposed Jamesport Nuclear Power Station held its first prehearing conference in August 1974. Evidentiary hearings began in October of that year and ended in September, 1977, after 123 hearing days. Despite this monumental state litigation regarding Jamesport, the companion NRC proceeding was also extensive. The first NRC prehearing conference was held in December 1974, followed by five more conferences spanning a 19-month period. Evidentiary hearings began in August 1976 and ran until June 1977, totalling 44 days. The initial decision appeared in December 1978 and Construction Permits were issued in January, 1979 -- 50 months after the first prehearing conference.

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As noted above, the Shoreham OL proceeding is already 4-1/2 years old and the SER has yet to be issued. This fact represents a major concern to us due to the extensive intervention in Shoreham's OL proceeding. Once the SER is issued, we believe that a significant amount of time will be required to complete the OL process. Therefore, it is important that the SER be issued as soon as possible so that we may proceed to the remaining aspects.

As indicated by the above, there are special circumstances at work in the Shoreham proceeding and LILCO has been making special efforts to come to grips with them. We urge the Staff to continue to do the same on a priority basis. We further request that, when you have completed assigning priorities to pending applications for licensing reviews, you advise us of your findings relative to the Shoreham Application.

Very truly yours,

J. P. Novarro,
Project Manager
Shoreham Nuclear Power Station

JPM/cc

cc: J. Higgins