

SNUPPS

Standardized Nuclear Unit
Power Plant System

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Executive Director

December 23, 1980

SLNRC 80-55 FILE: 0290
SUBJ: FSAR Review Meeting

✓ Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director
Office & Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Docket Nos.: STN 50-482, STN 50-483, STN 50-486

Reference: SLNRC 80-48, dated October 17, 1980, Review of
SNUPPS FSAR Chapter 8

Dear Mr. Denton:

The referenced letter invited the NRC to attend a SNUPPS review meeting on FSAR Chapter 8. The meeting was held in Gaithersburg, Maryland on December 9 and 10 and was attended by members of the NRC staff and its consultants, Lawrence Livermore Laboratory. The purpose of this letter is to comment on that meeting and to suggest measures that can be taken to further expedite and facilitate the review of the SNUPPS FSAR and the Cailaway and Wolf Creek applications.

During the past seven years, the SNUPPS Utilities have held numerous design review meetings with the architect-engineer, NSSS vendor, and other contractors. At this stage of the SNUPPS project, the utilities have had considerable input to, and have a good understanding of, the SNUPPS design. The December 9, 10 meeting was of limited value to the Utility personnel on the review panel. The meeting format, wherein utility representatives question and discuss the design bases with the A/E or NSSS vendor is appropriate for the construction permit stage of a licensing review when utility personnel are not as familiar with the design being proposed by the contractors.

The December 9, 10 meeting was of value because of the participation of the two NRC Staff reviewers. They asked a number of questions, indicated Staff positions, and pointed out areas where additional information was required in the FSAR in order for them to be able to reach the required conclusions. SNUPPS intends to provide a transcript of the meeting, supplemental information for the FSAR, and an evaluation of Chapter 8 prepared by the review panel. It is expected that the information obtained by the NRC reviewers during the meeting along with the materials that will be submitted later, will facilitate the NRC review of Chapter 8.

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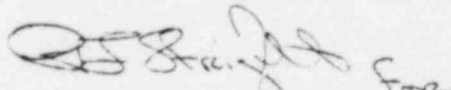
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Based on the above evaluation of the December 9, 10 meeting, consideration should be given to additional review meetings, but with some format change. It is felt that meetings can expedite the review process by reducing the number of written questions normally involved in an NRC safety review and by exchanging information in a face-to-face manner with the NRC. During these subsequent meetings Utility representatives would assume a stronger role in describing the design and questions would be posed by a panel of NRC reviewers. Meetings in this format were held during the CP stage review of the Palo Verde 4 & 5 application in late 1978 and proved to be useful in completing that review in an expedited manner.

It would be useful to the SNUPPS Utilities to know the NRC's evaluation of the December 9, 10 meeting. More technical review meetings should be conducted and the above suggestion for a format change should be considered. It is expected that the NRC's schedule for the review of the SNUPPS applications will be issued soon and that the schedule will include provisions for a series of technical meetings with the NRC staff.

Very truly yours,


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SLNRC 80-55

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