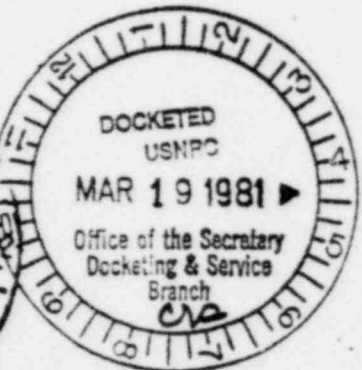


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MAR 03 1981



The Honorable William Carney
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Carney:

In your letter of January 29, 1981, you expressed concern over the NRC staff's slippage of the date of issuance for the Shoreham Safety Evaluation Report (SER). As you point out, our first monthly status report to the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development estimated issuance of the SER in June 1981. The target dates for Shoreham and for all pending operating license applications are reviewed regularly, and any changes resulting from subsequent developments are reported in the following monthly report.

The second monthly report advanced the Shoreham SER target date to January 1981 to better accommodate a longer hearing, which is anticipated in this case. However, the SER issuance date for Shoreham is dependent on the review status for the LaSalle-1 plant for the following reason. Last year, the applicants for the near-term boiling water reactor (BWR) operating licenses, which included Shoreham, requested that the NRC staff resolve the common BWR-related issues on a lead BWR plant. LaSalle was chosen as the lead plant since it was closest to construction completion. The staff has been proceeding on this basis and, due to delays in receiving the necessary inputs from the LaSalle applicant to complete the staff review, issuance of the LaSalle SER is now projected during March 1981. The third monthly report reflected this delay by targeting issuance of the Shoreham SER for March 1981.

I should point out that the time which could be saved in issuing the Shoreham SER before June 1981 is more than offset by the NRC staff's most recent estimate of the time which will be required to begin the hearing. The staff's most recent estimate from the third monthly report is that the hearing will start in January 1982 with licensing complete in October 1982 or one month after the projected completion of the facility. The reason for the slippage in the hearing start from the November 1981 target date in the first monthly report is that the schedule was based on standard time intervals and did not allocate sufficient time for the prehearing process. Recent experience has shown that time between issuance of the SER and the beginning of the hearings (or prehearing stage during which time the discovery and final particularization of the issues and contentions is completed as well as the writing of testimony and holding of the Final Prehearing Conference), was underestimated in the previous monthly status reports. In addition, the time necessary to issue an Initial Decision after the end of the hearing and for the Appeal Board/Commission review were also underestimated. I am enclosing a copy of the latest monthly report which discusses the generic change in more details.

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The Honorable William Carney

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During the last two weeks in February, the Commission met several times to discuss licensing schedules, the impact of NRC-induced delays, and possible actions to be taken to reduce or eliminate projected delays. Additional meetings are scheduled for this week on the same subject, and after those meetings we will be able to more fully respond to your inquiry.

Sincerely,

CS
Carlton Kammerer, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
Third NRR Monthly Status Report (Bevill Report)

Identical letters snet to:

Rep. Norman Lent
Rep. Tom Downey
Rep. Ray McGrath
Rep. Gregory Carman
Rep. John Boutillier
Sen. Alfonse D'Amato

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