



CHAIRMAN

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

April 2, 1981

The Honorable James G. Martin
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Martin:

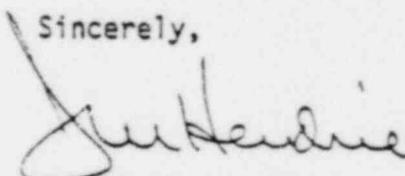
This is in response to your letter dated March 2, 1981 expressing concern about projected delays in the licensing of new nuclear power plants in general and the effect of such delays on the McGuire Station in particular.

The Commission has made it clear to its staff that expedited licensing decisions are a high priority and has itself devoted considerable time in seeking ways to reduce the delays being encountered in licensing new plants ready to come on line. On March 12, 1981, we provided the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development with a letter report on possible additional improvements in the licensing process. In addition, we have submitted a legislative proposal to the Congress which would authorize the Commission to permit fuel loading and low power testing prior to the completion of an operating license hearing. I am enclosing a copy of our March 12 letter, without attachments, for your information. If you require additional information on our efforts, copies of the attachments, our legislative proposal, and our monthly status reports may be obtained from our Office of Congressional Affairs on 634-1443.

With regard to the McGuire Station licensing schedule, our most recent estimate is that a Licensing Board initial decision should be issued in June of this year. Commission review of that initial decision and a decision on the operating license should then be accomplished by the beginning of August. This represents a gain of about eight months over our prior estimate of March 1982.

Please be assured that the Commission is taking action to reduce the delays encountered in the licensing of new nuclear power plants while ensuring the health and safety of the public.

Sincerely,



Joseph M. Hendrie

Enclosure:
As stated

810420 0476