

DISTRIBUTION:  
DNR OIC w/inc.  
NRC PDR "  
L PDR "

TERA  
:ISIC  
ORB#4 Rdg  
DEisenhut  
RPurple

Docket No. 50-289

JHeltemes, AEOD  
EHylton w/inc. & ticket  
JStolz  
NHughes  
MStine  
Program Support Branch (NRR-81-244)  
LB#2 Rdg  
RStark  
Yellow Ticket File w/inc. & ticket-Rm. 330  
Gray File-Rm. 330

JUNE 04 1981



Mr. R. Tracy Eddinger  
576 Village Road West  
Princeton Jct., New Jersey 08550

Dear Mr. Eddinger:

Thank you for your April 20, 1981 letter concerning the licensing delays, particularly those related to the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit No. 1 (TMI-1) and the Susquehanna Nuclear Plant.

Following the accident at TMI, the Commission did not issue any further operating licenses for over a year while a thorough review was made of implications of the accident. In the spring of 1980, the Commission approved new requirements for operating licenses based on the lessons learned from TMI. Since that time several new operating licenses have been issued, Farley Unit 2 in Alabama on March 31, 1981 and the most recent being Salem Unit 2 in New Jersey, which was issued a full power license on May 20, 1981.

The diversion of resources and the rethinking of safety requirements following the TMI accident delayed licensing activity at the Commission. As a result, we estimate that in 1981 and 1982 approximately a dozen nuclear plants will be completed from 1 to 12 months before a full power license decision can be made. The Commission is concerned about this situation and is taking a number of steps to correct it. These steps are outlined in the testimony given by Chairman Hendrie on April 2 before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development.

TMI-1 was shut down for refueling at the time of the accident at TMI-2 in late March 1979. On July 2, 1979, the Commission ordered that the facility remain in cold shutdown until further order of the Commission, stating that "the Commission presently lacks the requisite reasonable assurance that the...Licensee's Three Mile Island Unit No. 1 Facility...can be operated without endangering the health and safety of the public". Further, the Commission stated that public hearings would be conducted to determine whether TMI-1 should be allowed to resume operation and if so, under what conditions.

In a subsequent order issued August 9, the Commission established procedures for the hearing and decision on the issues. The hearings began before a NRC Atomic Safety and Licensing Board in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on October 15, 1980. The Commission issued a March 23, 1981 Order which included a discussion of various means which could expedite the TMI-1 restart proceeding. In that Order, the Commission reversed the position taken in its August 9, 1979 Order regarding the need to litigate the licensee's financial

8106100464

p

Mr. R. Tracy Eddinger

-2-

qualifications, and is removing the financial qualification issue from the proceeding. Also towards expediting the TMI-1 restart proceedings, the March 23 Order stated that we would permit the licensee to begin hot functional testing of TMI-1 systems and equipment using non-nuclear heat, subject to appropriate staff review; and that the Commission would issue its decision on the TMI-1 restart within 35 days after the issuance of the licensing board decision. The staff has recently issued safety evaluations which it believes will provide the basis for closing the hearing record. The current estimate is that a Commission decision will be made by late 1981.

With respect to the operating license application review for the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, the NRC staff has already issued a Safety Evaluation Report (NUREG-0776, April 1981). The NRC staff is working with the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company (PP&L) to resolve outstanding safety issues not resolved in that report and plans to issue one or more supplemental SERs on these remaining safety issues.

As reported to Bevill, Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, Committee on Appropriations, U. S. House of Representatives, the NRC is projecting a licensing decision on this case for June 1982. On May 5, 1981, PP&L gave April of 1982 as its best estimate for completion of construction of the first unit at this station. Therefore, the projected licensing impact for this case has been reduced to two months.

I trust that this information will adequately describe our efforts regarding expediting licensing delays.

Sincerely,

Original signed by  
Darrell G. Eisenhut

Darrell G. Eisenhut, Director  
Division of Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

POOR ORIGINAL

\*See previous 318 for concurrence

OFFICE ▶	ORB#4:DL	C-ORB#4:DL	AD-OR:DL	DD:DL	D:DL	AD-L:DL
SURNAME ▶	Eisenhut/cab	JStolz*	TNovak*	RPurple	DEisenhut	RTedesco*
DATE ▶	6/3/81	5/19/81	5/27/81	6/3/81	6/3/81	5/28/81

Mr. R. Tracy Eddinger

-2-

qualifications, and is removing the financial qualification issue from the proceeding. Also towards expediting the TMI-1 restart proceedings, the March 23 Order stated that we would permit the licensee to begin hot functional testing of TMI-1 systems and equipment using non-nuclear heat, subject to appropriate staff review; and that the Commission would issue its decision on the TMI-1 restart within 35 days after the issuance of the licensing board decision. The staff has recently issued safety evaluations which it believes will provide the Board a basis for closing the hearing record. The current estimate is that a Commission decision will be made by late 1981.

With respect to the operating license application review for the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, the NRC staff has already issued a Safety Evaluation Report (NUREG-0776, April 1981). The NRC staff is working vigorously with the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company (PP&L) to resolve outstanding safety issues not resolved in that report and plans to issue a supplemental SER on these remaining safety issues.

As reported to Chairman Bevill of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, Committee on Appropriations, U. S. House of Representatives, the NRC is now projecting a licensing decision on this case for June 1982. On May 5, 1981, PP&L gave April of 1982 as its best estimate for completion of construction of the first unit at this station. Therefore, the projected licensing impact for this case has been reduced to two months.

I trust that this information will adequately describe our efforts regarding expediting licensing delays.

Sincerely,

Darrell G. Eisenhut, Director  
Division of Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

\*See previous 318 for concurrences.

*AP 5/25/81*

OFFICE ▶	ORB#4:DL	C-ORB#4:DL	AD-OR:DL	D:DL	AD-OR:DL		
SURNAME ▶	Elyton/cb	JStolz*	TNoyak	DEisenhut	RTedesco		
DATE ▶	5/21/81	5/19/81	5/21/81	5/ /81	5/24/81		

qualifications, and is removing the financial qualification issue from the proceeding. The March 23 Order also stated that we would permit the licensee to begin hot functional testing of TMI-1 systems and equipment using non-nuclear heat, subject to appropriate staff review, and that the Commission would issue its decision on the effectiveness of the ASLB's decision within 35 days after the issuance of the TMI-1 licensing board decision. The staff has resumed the hearing based on recent safety evaluations which it believes will provide the Board a basis for closing the hearing records. The current estimate is that a Board decision will not be made before late 1981.

With respect to the operating license application review for the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, the NRC staff has already issued a Safety Evaluation Report (NUREG-0776, April 1981). The NRC staff is working vigorously with the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company (PP&L) to resolve outstanding safety issues not resolved in that report and plans to issue a supplemental SER on these remaining safety issues.

As reported to Chairman Bevill of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, Committee on Appropriations, U. S. House of Representatives, the NRC is now projecting a licensing decision on this case for June 1982. On May 5, 1981, PP&L gave April of 1982 as its best estimate for completion of construction of the first unit at this station. Therefore, the projected licensing impact for this case has been reduced to two months.

I trust that this information will adequately describe our efforts regarding expediting the TMI-1 restart proceeding.

Sincerely,

Darrell G. Eisenhut, Director  
 Division of Licensing  
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

OFFICE ▶	ORB#4:DL	C-ORB#4:DL	AD-OR:DL	D:DL			
SURNAME ▶	EHytan/cb	JStolz	TNovak	DEisenhut			
DATE ▶	5/8/81	5/19/81	5/ /81	5/ /81			