



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

February 9, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman Carr
Commissioner Roberts
Commissioner Rogers
Commissioner Curtiss
Commissioner Remick

FROM: James M. Taylor
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT ON SEABROOK STATION, UNIT 1

Following the status briefing on the Seabrook facility on January 18, 1990, the Commission requested additional information from the staff regarding late-filed allegations and a status report on plant material readiness from Public Service Company of New Hampshire. This memorandum and enclosures respond to the Commission's request.

The staff completed detailed reviews of late-filed allegations concerning Seabrook Station, Unit 1. These reviews were conducted using the criteria of NRC Manual Chapter MC 0517, "Management of Allegations" (and particularly the late-allegation criteria of MC 0517, Section 059) and represent a substantial expenditure of NRC technical (approximately 1000 inspection hours) and managerial resources. Enclosure 1, NRC Inspection Report 50-443/90-80, describes the results of the staff's review of approximately 255 separate allegations prepared by the Quality Technology Corporation for the Employees Legal Project (ELP). Included in this review are allegations regarding falsification of documents provided to the NRC in a January 31, 1990 letter from ELP. Enclosure 2, NRC Inspection Report 50-443/90-82, describes the results of the staff's review of 13 allegations made by a private citizen (the president of Ideas & Information, Inc.) who taped Seabrook control room radio transmissions from January 1989 through January 1990. Based upon these reviews, the NRC staff concluded that none of the allegations represent concerns that are material to the issuance of a full-power license.

The staff's review of the ELP concerns determined that the majority of the concerns were restatements of allegations previously submitted by ELP that were reviewed and properly resolved in NRC Inspection Reports 50-443/84-12, 50-443/86-52 and 50-443/87-07. The remainder of the ELP allegations involved issues that had been previously documented in NRC reports dating back to 1981 or issues that were new and required a moderate amount of inspection for clarification and resolution. Although none of the allegations were deemed by the staff to be material to licensing, seven items are being tracked for additional confirmatory review by the staff.

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The staff's review of the selected transcripts received from Ideas & Information, Inc., determined none to be indicative of a safety or a security inadequacy and therefore not material to licensing. In addition, the staff evaluated a statistical sampling (21 ninety-minute tapes with about 1300 messages) of 202 audio tapes received on January 30, 1990, in response to a subpoena issued by Region I.

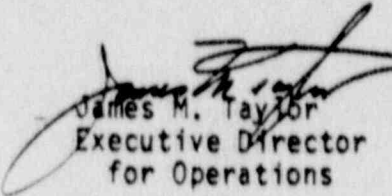
This evaluation did not reveal any safety inadequacies or reflect any deficiencies in safety-related maintenance, equipment performance, or operator performance, as alleged. Based on the large number of conversations reviewed by the staff without finding any safety or security inadequacies, the staff concluded that there is a high level of confidence that the remainder of the tapes contain no safety or security inadequacies. The staff has arranged to have the 202 tapes transcribed and will forward them to the licensee for review. The staff believes, based on the 21 tapes it reviewed, that a reasonable schedule for licensee review and completion is 60 days from receipt of the transcripts.

In addition, the staff reviewed the ELP letter of February 1, 1990, which alleged a breakdown in control of security key cards at Seabrook. The staff has evaluated this issue and determined that the allegation is unsubstantiated and did not raise any concerns material to licensing.

Further, the staff reviewed Ms. Diane Curran's letter of February 1, 1990 to the Commission on behalf of three intervenors regarding the "Seabrook Readiness Review." Ms. Curran is counsel for the New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution, a Seabrook intervenor. A copy of Ms. Curran's letter was forwarded to the NRC Office of the Inspector General for consideration. The technical issues described therein are all based upon NRC inspection findings previously reviewed by the staff and considered in its recommendation regarding issuance of a full-power license. No new safety issues or matters material to the licensing decision were raised. The staff is preparing a reply to Ms. Curran.

Enclosure 3 contains the licensee's report on the status of the major remaining items to be completed before the licensee is ready to receive a full-power license and begin plant operation. The report indicates that the facility will be ready for criticality and to begin the Power Ascension Test Program on or about February 15, 1990, contingent upon issuance of an NRC full-power license as well as satisfactory completion of testing below Mode 2. As noted in Enclosure 3, the licensee has not completed testing of the Emergency Feedwater

(EFW) System and plans to complete this testing prior to entering Mode 2. The Commission will be informed when the licensee completes the scheduled EFW system testing.


James M. Taylor
Executive Director
for Operations

Enclosures:

1. NRC Inspection Report 50-443/90-80
2. NRC Inspection Report 50-443/90-82
3. PSNH Update of Plant Status