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

June 25, 1981

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM FOR: William J. Dircks, Executive Director for Operations
Leonard Bickwit, Jr., General Counsel

FROM: Samuel J. Chilk, Secretary

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE ON
OPERATING LICENSE FOR SEQUOYAH-2, 2:45 P.M., WEDNESDAY,
JUNE 17, 1981, COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM, D.C.
OFFICE (OPEN TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

The Commission, by a vote of 4-0, authorized the Director, NRR, to issue a low-power operating license for Sequoyah-2.

The Commission authorized Sequoyah-2 to operate up to 5 percent power. In limiting operation to this level, the Commission adhered to its post-TMI review practice of a two-phase Commission sign-off, one for 5 percent and one for full power. Sequoyah-2 is the sixth plant reviewed pursuant to this process. Provided that it completes its license requirements and no safety concerns arise, it will be permitted to move from 5 percent to full power on schedule, without delay.

The Commission noted its intention to move toward elimination of the two-phase sign-off by delegating the 5-percent decision to the staff and the boards in the reasonably near future if experience justifies such a step. In the meantime, it is a practice that applies to all units, and it should not be taken as expressing particular concern regarding safety at Sequoyah.

The Commission requested that OGC prepare language to amend Appendix B to permit the elimination of the two-phase Commission licensing decision by delegating the low-power license to the staff and the boards and to extend the time within which the Commission expects to complete its initial full-power review.

(OGC) (SECY Suspense: 7/13/81)

cc: Chairman Hendrie
Commissioner Gilinsky
Commissioner Bradford
Commissioner Ahearne
Commission Staff Offices
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