



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

81-715

DOCKET NUMBER
PROPOSED RULE **PR-2**
(46 FR 17216)

MAY 29 1981



The Honorable Jesse Helms
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Helms:

Thank you for your letter dated May ²⁰ 6, 1981 enclosing correspondence from your constituent, Carl A. Swafford, who is concerned about proposed NRC regulations designed to reduce delays in the licensing process for nuclear power plants.

The diversion of staff resources and rethinking of safety requirements following the accident at Three Mile Island adversely affected 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 proposing a number of actions to correct it. Your constituent mentions several of these proposed changes.

Amendments to the Commission's Rules of Practice, 10 CFR Part 2, were published in the Federal Register for comment on March 18, 1981. These amendments were intended to permit more timely conduct of NRC hearings by tightening the time-allowed for each part of the process and by providing firmer time management. The Commission received a large number of comments on this issue and is now considering alternatives to the proposed amendments. It is expected that the Commission will take further action with respect to the proposed amendments in the near future.



Sincerely,

Edward Fry
for Carlton Kammerer, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

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