



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

DEC 18 1989

12/18/89

MEMORANDUM FOR: James M. Taylor
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Thomas E. Murley, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: DIFFERING PROFESSIONAL OPINION CONCERNING COMANCHE PEAK'S
FUEL LOAD READINESS AND SALP REPORT

References: (1) Unsigned Anonymous Memorandum to the Chairman dtd
October 4, 1989
(2) Memo Thomas E. Murley to James M. Taylor, dtd
October 10, 1989
(3) Letter Billie Garde to James M. Taylor, dtd
November 20, 1989

In my October 10, 1989 memorandum (Reference 2) I advised you of my actions regarding the anonymous memorandum to the Chairman regarding Comanche Peak's fuel load readiness and the SALP Report. Since that time, you received the November 20 letter from Ms. Billie Garde.

This is to update you on our progress for review of the issues which were raised in references (1) and (3).

Regarding fuel load readiness, the staff is continuing to make orderly progress in evaluating the licensee's readiness. The Operational Readiness Assessment Team (ORAT) conducted an inspection in October and concluded that the licensee had to complete many open items before a low power license could be granted. On December 18, 1989, the ORAT Team Leader is going to the site to determine the appropriate time for the ORAT to continue its inspection. I anticipate the inspection will likely resume in mid-January.

The DPO Panel has met on three occasions to monitor the progress of the various activities to review and resolve the SALP issue. The Panel expects to utilize the input from (1) Bill Travers' and Ralph Architzel's independent review of the draft and final SALP reports, (2) discussions with the SALP Board Chairman, A/D for Comanche Peak Inspection Programs, and lead operations inspector and lead construction inspector at Comanche Peak, (3) surveys of the inspectors and consultants associated with Comanche Peak and (4) an analysis of references (1) and (3) to arrive at a recommendation to me. I expect to provide you with a final report by January 26, 1990.

The details of the schedule follow:

December 20, 1989

Inspector/Consultant Survey completed and
provided to DPO Panel

James M. Taylor

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December 22, 1989 Travers/Architzel report to Jim Sniezek completed and provided to DPO Panel

January 4, 1990 DPO Panel meets with SALP Board Chairman, A/D for Comanche Peak Inspection Programs, and lead inspectors

January 17, 1990 DPO Panel provides report and recommendations to Director NRR

January 26, 1990 Report to EDO

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Jim Sniezek or me.

Approved by
Thomas E. Murley
Thomas E. Murley, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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