



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

August 13, 1990

Sherwood H. Smith, Jr., Chairman
Nuclear Power Oversight Committee
P. O. Box 65846
Washington, D.C. 20035-5846

Dear Mr. Smith:

I am responding to your letter of July 3, 1990, to Chairman Carr in which you stated that the Nuclear Power Oversight Committee (NPOC) desires the timely certification of the two evolutionary designs and the passive designs that are currently before the Commission. You stated that this certification is extremely important if the nuclear option is to be considered for new baseload capacity for the late 1990s and beyond. You also stated that the resolution of issues in the EPRI ALWR Utility Requirements Document should be used as the basis for resolving technical issues generically and establishing the utility requirements.

The Commission has considered various options concerning a staff review process for advanced light water reactors (ALWRs). These review options included the consideration of the role of the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) in developing design requirements for ALWRs. In selecting the review process, the Commission adopted a process that will enable it to consider and resolve important safety and policy issues early in the design certification process. This review process also allows for a thorough review by the Commission's Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards and should allow the NRC to perform an efficient and comprehensive evaluation of both EPRI requirements and the ALWR designs. The certification reviews for the designs are proceeding simultaneously with the review of the EPRI evolutionary plant requirements. However, to ensure generic resolution of the passive plant policy issues, the staff will complete the review of the EPRI passive plant requirements before it begins to review the vendor applications for passive design certification.

Although a timely review of ALWR designs is important to the Commission, the Commission must assure itself that all issues affecting the public health and safety are adequately addressed. To accomplish this, the staff needs sufficient time to identify and evaluate these issues to ensure that the proposed ALWR designs provide adequate protection. In addition, the Commission wants to be assured that its standardization goals are achieved. Before the staff can reevaluate its schedules, it must resolve the issue of the level of detail required in design certification applications, because this issue is of great importance in determining what level of standardization is realized.

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Att 7
COMMITTEE
Board

Sherwood H. Smith, Jr.

- 2 -

I look forward to hearing more about the NPOC initiatives which facilitate the industry moving ahead with essential planning for future designs.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:
James M. Taylor

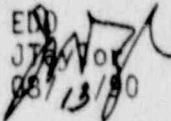
James M. Taylor
Executive Director
for Operations

*See previous concurrences:

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OFC:	D/NRR*
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DATE:	08/08/90

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Sherwood H. Smith, Jr.

- 2 -

I look forward to hearing more about the NPOC program to allow industry to move ahead with essential planning for a nuclear future.

Sincerely,

James M. Taylor
Executive Director
for Operations

OFC:	LA <i>AS</i>	TE	CSM	AD/SP	
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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

ACTION

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: EDO CONTROL: 0005602
DOC DT: 07/03/90
FINAL REPLY:

Sherwood H. Smith, Jr.
Nuclear Power Oversight Committee (NPOC)

TO:
Chairman Carr

FOR SIGNATURE OF: ** GRN **

CRC NO: 90-0380

DESC: CONCERNING THE EVOLUTIONARY AND THE PASSIVE ALWR
DESIGNS CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW BY THE NRC STAFF

ROUTING:
Taylor
Sniezek
Thompson
Blaha
Beckjord, RES

DATE: 07/06/90

ASSIGNED TO: CONTACT:
NRR Murley

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:
For Appropriate Action

8/13

