

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

January 14, 1983

The Honorable Nunzio Palladino
Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Dr. Palladino:

Approximately two years ago, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission furnished the Congress with information which indicated that in the absence of temporary authority to issue operating licenses prior to the conduct or completion of any required hearing, severe economic penalties would result for several utilities and their ratepayers. Relying on this information, Congress provided such authority in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Authorization Act, PL 97-415. As you know, delays have not materialized as projected, and the authority has proven to be unnecessary. To aid the Committee in assessing the effect of this legislation, please respond to the following questions by January 21, 1983.

1. Provide a list showing each nuclear reactor at which delay has been experienced between plant completion and initial criticality due solely to the administrative delays of the Commission. Please indicate the duration and reasons for each such delay.
2. For each of the fourteen reactors identified by the Commission in March, 1981, likely to experience delay in the issuance of an operating license which did not incur delay please provide an explanation of why the projected delay did not occur.
3. Of those reactors issued an operating license, including a low-power license, since January 1, 1981, did any experience problems which delayed power ascension as scheduled? If so, identify the reactor, describe the problem, and explain why such problem was not detected during the review of the application for an operating license prior to the issuance of the (low-power) operating license.
4. What actions has the Commission taken to improve its ability to detect problems such as those identified in the response to Question 3, prior to the issuance of the operating license?

XA Copy Has Been Sent to PDR

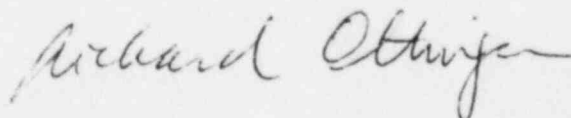
XA

8302170086

5. Identify any nuclear reactor under construction which may qualify for application for a temporary operating license.
6. Provide a description of the procedures instituted by the Commission to verify information and projected schedules provided by the applicant.
7. For any reactor identified in the response to Question 5, please provide the date by which the Commission staff believe plant construction will be sufficiently complete to permit (a) fuel loading, (b) initial criticality, (c) five percent power?
8. For any reactor identified in the response to Question 5, please provide the dates of all meetings of the applicant and the Commission staff which occurred after July 1, 1982, concerning scheduling; together with a list of all participants and the agreed-upon schedule, if any. Provide the basis for any disagreement between the applicant and Commission staff on an estimated completion date, and any dissenting staff opinion and the basis therefor.
9. Please identify any reactor for which delay is projected between construction completion and issuance of a low-power operating license during FY 1984 and FY 1985, together with the reasons for such delay.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Richard L. Ottinger