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COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE

Committee: EPRI Utility Steering
Committee - Standardized
Light Water Reactor Design

Address Writer at:

Wisconsin Electric Power Company
231 West Michigan Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201
Telephone: (414) 277-2121

September 15, 1982

Mr. Harold Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Mr. Denton:

On July 20, 1982, you met with members of the EPRI Utility Steering Committee for the Industry Program for Development of Standardized Light Water Reactor Design for One-Step Licensing. At that time we outlined Phase I of our proposed program, and discussed possible interaction between NRC and the industry program. You expressed a willingness to assign personnel to work with EPRI on the program. Proceeding to Phase II of the program will depend, in some part, upon our ability to work constructively with NRC during Phase I.

The objectives of this interaction were to:

Help define scope, degree of detail, and starting point for standardizing design, as well as site-enveloping characteristics.

Identify outstanding issues to be resolved and schedule for resolution.

Develop detailed approach to resolve three typical outstanding issues, including mechanisms, plans, information and appropriate schedule.

In order to achieve these objectives, it was requested that the NRC provide the necessary resources to complement the industry commitment to the initial phase of the program. It is expected that two levels of NRC participation are required initially: a Policy Committee and a Program Group.

The Policy Committee would provide interpretation of NRC policy regarding standardization and give direction and provide resources for the program. They would also resolve any differing views that develop at the program level and provide the focal point

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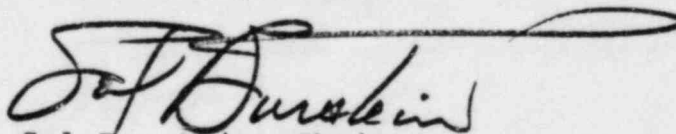
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for obtaining necessary decisions to enable the program to proceed. As suggested by Chairman Palladino, legal and procedural, as well as technical, input will be needed. I have arranged to enlist the assistance of Barton Z. Cowan, Esq., Chairman of the Legal Committee of the Atomic Industrial Forum, to work with the Utility Steering Committee and interact with the NRC Policy Committee on such matters.

The Program Group is necessary to demonstrate the feasibility of the program. This group would work with industry representatives and be responsible for identifying all current licensing issues of a technical nature whose resolution is necessary for certification of standard light water reactor designs. In addition, three such issues would be selected by the Utility Steering Committee and the NRC Policy Committee to demonstrate the feasibility of reasonably resolving issues independent of specific licensing activities. The Program Group would work with selected industry representatives with the goal of developing a plan and schedule for resolution of these sample issues. Karl Stahlkopf plans to visit Daryl Eisenhut as soon as possible to establish the specifics of near-term activities of the Program Group and EPRI.

As you know, there is considerable divergence of opinion as to the approaches that should be taken both by the industry and by the NRC to further nuclear plant standardization. Some of these differences may affect the scope and schedule of this program. It is believed, however, that the program proposed here by EPRI is consistent with the current views of safety goals, backfitting provisions, one-step licensing, and other programs intended to remove present regulatory uncertainties, stabilize plant designs, and attain the benefits of standardization. NRC participation in this proposed undertaking is necessary if this activity is to have any potential opportunity.

Very truly yours,



Sol Burstein, Chairman
Utility Steering Committee

Copy to Mr. J. Tourtellotte