

The Deputy Secretary of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

November 28, 1990

The Honorable Kenneth M. Carr  
Chairman, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Carr:

The Department of Energy recently received a public notice, issued by Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff, of a proposed amendment to the Shoreham Nuclear Powerplant operating license. The proposed amendment would allow Long Island Lighting Company (LILCO) to remove and to ship 137 fuel support castings and 12 core peripheral pieces to the low-level radioactive waste disposal repository at Barnwell, South Carolina.

In previous letters, Secretary Watkins and I have requested that, before approving any actions which would result in the dismantling of the Shoreham facility, the Commission prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). We also expressed our concerns that piecemeal decommissioning would circumvent the Commission's requirements for approval of a decommissioning plan. In your September 15, 1989 response to Admiral Watkins, you assured us that the Commission would not allow any action that would constitute piecemeal decommissioning of the Shoreham plant or segmentation of the environmental review process, pending the submittal and approval by the NRC of a formal decommissioning plan for the facility.

I understand that these fuel support castings and core peripheral pieces are important parts of the internals of the Shoreham reactor. Granting the proposed license amendment would constitute piecemeal decommissioning prior to formal consideration by the NRC of a decommissioning amendment. Such action should only be considered as part of the formal decommissioning plan and after full environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

In Admiral Watkins' letter to you on September 18, 1990, and in a brief filed by the Department on November 9, 1990, in response to an NRC invitation on October 16, 1990, the Department provided additional comments relating to the need for a full environmental

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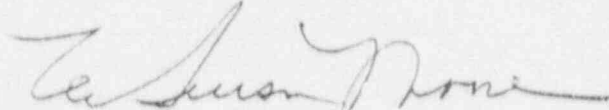
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review before any action is taken which could lead to the plant's decommissioning. We request that the proposed license amendment not be issued until the serious issues raised in our September 18, 1990 letter and the November 3, 1990 brief are resolved and a formal decommissioning plan has been submitted and approved.

With kindest personal regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,



W. Henson Moore

cc:

Commissioner Kenneth C. Rogers  
Commissioner James R. Curtiss  
Commissioner Forrest J. Remick