

Central file

NOV 12 1982

Mr. Joseph A. Cambel
286 Mckinley Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11208

Dear Mr. Cambel:

In your letter of October 19 to Chairman Palladino, you expressed concern about a number of issues regarding nuclear power plant safety. One specific concern dealt with plans to speed up the licensing process and the potential negative impact this might have on reactor safety. The intent of these plans is not to reduce safety, but to improve the efficiency of the licensing process by reducing unnecessary delays in that process. An example of a means to increase this efficiency includes changes in the process involving public hearings. The proposed changes would allow plant construction and operation to proceed where indicated without the necessity of complete prior resolution of every item being considered in the hearing process. Another significant issue addressed in the plans is the development of criteria for determining which issues have sufficient safety impact to require backfitting of currently operating nuclear power plants. The intent of this issue is not to avoid backfitting of operating plants where such backfitting is indicated in the interest of safety, but to accomplish such backfitting in a systematic fashion that causes the least disruption to plant operations.

The accident at Three Mile Island 2 (TMI-2) clearly identified the need to examine the issues of shift scheduling, staffing, training, and control room design. As a result, the NRC staff developed the "NRC Action Plan Developed as a Result of the TMI-2 Accident" (NUREG-0660) to provide a comprehensive and integrated plan to improve safety at power reactors. In addition to increasing the number of licensed operators in the control room, the Action Plan calls for addition of a Shift Technical Advisor (STA) to provide increased engineering capability to the staff of all plants. The STA must have a bachelor's degree or its equivalent in a scientific or engineering discipline, as well as specific training in the response and analysis of the plant for abnormal events and accidents. This person must also be trained in plant design and layout, including capabilities of control room instrumentation and controls.

While the Navy nuclear power training program is considered to be highly successful, the design differences between Naval and commercial reactors preclude using all aspects of the Navy system in the civilian training program. The NRC recognizes, however, that training in the nuclear industry must be upgraded. In response to Action Plan items that address the upgrading of training, NRC's Division of Human Factors Safety has undertaken

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an effort to develop and implement a training program plan. Essential to this plan is an assessment of nuclear plant training that will serve as a reliable basis upon which the NRC can assure the quality of licensed and non-licensed power plant personnel. This training plan, in conjunction with NRC's Integrated Human Factors Program Plan, outlines the implementation of the effort to upgrade training throughout the industry.

Your concern regarding the number of gauges in control rooms is being addressed in that utilities are required to perform a detailed design review of their control rooms and report any human engineering discrepancies found to the NRC. Utilities will be required to correct those discrepancies that could adversely affect safe operation of their plants. In addition, utilities will be required to install a Safety Parameter Display System that will provide a concise display of critical plant variables to the control room operators to aid them in rapidly and reliably determining the safety status of the plant.

I hope I have adequately addressed your concerns. Thank you for your letter.

Sincerely,
Original signed by

Hugh L. Thompson, Jr., Director
Division of Human Factors Safety
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

*SEE PREVIOUS QCR FOR CONCURRENCE

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DATE ▶	11/12/82	11/9/82	11/12/82		

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Sincerely,

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

control room part of

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FROM: Joseph A. Cambel Brooklyn, New York	ACTION CONTROL	DATES	CONTROL NO 12426
	COMPL DEADLINE	11/18/82	
TO: Chairman Palladino	INTERIM REPLY		PREPARE FOR SIGNATURE OF: <input type="checkbox"/> CHAIRMAN <input type="checkbox"/> EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OTHER _____
	FINAL REPLY	<i>15/ Thompson</i>	
	FILE LOCATION	<i>11/18/82</i>	

DESCRIPTION LETTER MEMO REPORT OTHER

Views concerning safety of nuclear power plants

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS

ASSIGNED TO	DATE	INFORMATION ROUTING
Denton, NRR f/ APPROP. ACTION Thompson	10/27/82 10/28/82	Case/Denton 1. PPAS 2. Eisenhut 3. Hanauer 4. Mattson 5. Vollmer 6. Check 7. Snyder

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No. **1064** Logging Date **10/26/82**

NRC SECRETARIAT

TO: Commissioner Exec. Dir./Oper. Cong. Liaison Public Affairs

Date: Gen. Counsel Solicitor Secretary Inspector & Auditor Policy Evaluation

Incoming: **Joseph A. Cambel**

From: **Brooklyn, N.Y.**

To: **Palladino** Date **10/19/82**

Subject: **views concerning the safety of nuclear power plants**

Prepare reply for signature of:

Chairman

Commissioner

EDO, GC, CL, SOL, PA, SECY, IA, PE

Signature block omitted

Return original of incoming with response

For direct reply *

For appropriate action

For information

Rec'd Off, EDO
Date **10-27-82**
Time **2:00 p.m.**

Remarks: _____

For the Commission: **bac**

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