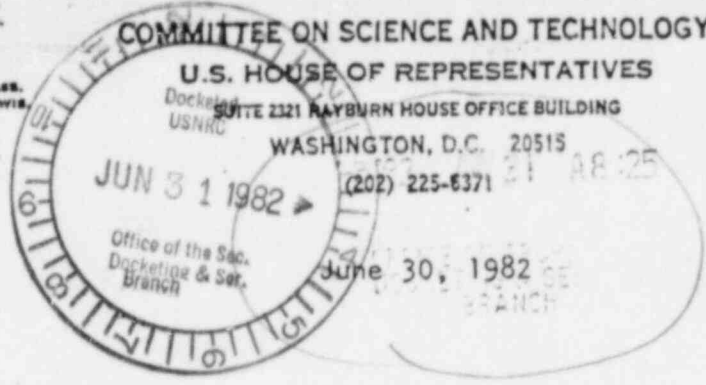


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James R. Tourtellotte, Chairman
 Nuclear Regulatory Reform Task Force
 United States Nuclear Regulatory
 Commission
 Washington, D.C. 20555

DOCKET NUMBER
 PROPOSED RULE PR-Misc Notice
 (47 FR 24044)

Dear Jim:

Thank you for forwarding me a copy of your speech on regulatory reform. It was most informative and reflects an understanding of the substantial reforms needed at NRC.

Concerning your legislative package in the June 2, 1982, I would like the Commission to make the decision on its own authority to change to a legislative type hearing process under section 189(a). There is a wealth of opinion in the record of the various Committee's in Congress that NRC has that discretion under the law. In this regard, I disagree with Crane and Wenner. I would like to see the AEC brief filed with the Court of Appeals that says section 189(a) requires an adjudicatory hearing.

Additionally, I would like to see a provision added to the effect that NRC will strive to minimize the time required for licensing plants while at the same time providing the opportunity for meaningful public involvement in the process. Increasing productivity in the private sector requires better use of resources than in unnecessarily burdensome and time consuming regulatory procedures. There should be some recognition that the public is best served by expeditions and efficient processing of applications.

I am not sure I understand the distinction Commissioner Gilinski is making by changing "substantially" to "significantly" in most cases and then adding "substantially" in paragraph (3) of section 196. Has this some special significance in NRC regulations?

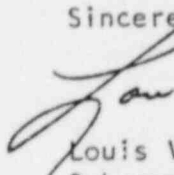
If the licensee proposes voluntary design changes under section 196, is a hearing necessary or available to any requester? I would recommend adding "only" after "subject" in the last sentence of section 196. Licensee changes to improve safety must be encouraged to the greatest extent possible. Long drawn-out hearings have a chilling effect on such proposals.

DD09
 James Tourtellotte
 1124 H
 Jane Axelrod
 9604 MNBB

James R. Tourtellotte, Chairman
June 30, 1982
Page 2

In all, I think your proposal is excellent and I hope it is sent to the hill quickly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "L. Ventre, Jr.", written in dark ink.

Louis Ventre, Jr., Counsel
Subcommittee on Energy Research
and Production

LV:ba