

STAFF SAFETY EVALUATION FOR EXTENSION OF THE
EARLIEST AND LATEST CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION DATES FOR
THE MARBLE HILL NUCLEAR GENERATION STATION
UNITS NO. 1 AND 2

INTRODUCTION

On April 4, 1978, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission authorized the construction of the Marble Hill Nuclear Generating Station Units No. 1 and 2 by issuing Construction Permits No. CPPR-170 and CPPR-171 to the Public Service Company of Indiana (PSI). These Permits established earliest completion dates for the respective facilities of January 1, 1982 and January 1, 1984 and latest completion dates of January 1, 1984 and January 1, 1986.

By letter dated November 24, 1982, Public Service Company of Indiana and its licensee; Wabash Valley Power Association, Incorporated, applied for an amendment to Construction Permit CPPR-170 and CPPR-171 which would amend the earliest completion dates to read March 1, 1986 and September 1, 1987 respectively, and amend the latest completion dates to read March 1, 1988 and September 1, 1989.

In accordance with 10 CFR 50.55(b), the NRC staff, having found good cause shown, recommends that the amended latest completion dates of March 1, 1988 for Unit 1, and September 1, 1989 for Unit 2 be granted for the reasons stated below. The staff has further determined that it is unnecessary to change the earliest completion dates as stated in Construction Permits CPPR-170 and CPPR-171 and has therefore not acted upon that portion of the Permittee's request for amendment.

ANALYSIS

Public Service of Indiana stated in the November 24, 1982 request that the following factors led to the overall delay in the completion of construction of the facility:

1. Due to concern about the adequacy and effectiveness of the quality assurance program at Marble Hill, all safety related work at the site was suspended by PSI on August 7, 1979. This suspension was subsequently confirmed by an NRC Order dated August 15, 1979. This Order was gradually rescinded between May 15, 1980 and February 12, 1982 when it was terminated.
2. During the period that safety related work was stopped, design revisions, increased regulatory requirements and PSI's expanded commitment to quality assurance for the remaining construction activities have expanded the PSI schedule for completion of the project by approximately four years.

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The NRC staff has reviewed the cause for the delay stated in the PSI letter of November 24, 1982 and concludes that the applicant has shown good cause for the delay in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR Section 50.55(b). The NRC staff recommends that the latest completion date of the construction permits be extended an additional 51 and 45 months each for Marble Hill Units 1 and 2, respectively to provide for schedule delays as requested by the applicant.

As a result of the review of the Final Safety Analysis Report to date and considering the nature of the delays, the NRC staff has identified no area of significant safety consideration in connection with the extension of the construction permit completion dates for the Marble Hill Station, Units 1 and 2. The only change proposed by the Permittee to the existing construction permits is an extension of the earliest and latest construction completion dates. This extension will not allow any work to be performed involving new safety information of a type not considered by previous Commission safety reviews of the facility and that is not already allowed by the existing construction permits. Therefore, the staff finds that (1) this action does not involve a significant hazards consideration, (2) prior public notice of this action is not required, (3) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by the requested extension of the construction completion dates, and (4) good cause exists for issuance of an Order extending the latest construction completion dates.

The staff has determined that since the original earliest completion date has passed without completion of construction that no change to the earliest completion date is necessary.

CONCLUSION

The Commission's staff has reviewed the information provided in the applicant's submittal and concludes that the factors discussed above are reasonable and constitute good cause for delay; and that extension of the latest construction completion dates for the Marble Hill Units 1 and 2 are reasonable and justifiable.

The NRC staff finds that this action does not involve a significant hazards consideration, and that good cause exists for the issuance of an Order extending the latest completion dates in Construction Permit Nos. CPPR-170 and CPPR-171 to March 1, 1988 and September 1, 1989, respectively.

The NRC staff has determined that this action will not result in any significant environmental impact and, pursuant to 10 CFR 51.5(d)(4), an environmental impact statement, or negative declaration and environmental impact appraisal, need not be prepared in connection with this action.

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Dated: JAN 13 1983

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