



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

June 13, 1991

The Honorable Bob Smith  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510-2903

Dear Senator Smith:

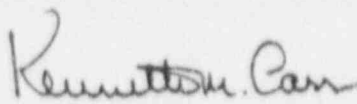
I am responding to your letter of May 14, 1991, in which you requested information regarding outstanding questions related to plant safety for the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) believes that all significant safety issues concerning Seabrook have been resolved and that the plant is safe to operate.

All significant safety concerns were resolved before the NRC granted a full power operating license in 1990. The NRC is continually conducting licensing and inspection activities at Seabrook that are typical of any operating nuclear facility and contribute to nuclear safety. Typically, these activities involve issues such as procedural compliance, maintenance practices, equipment reliability and review of proposed license amendments. At any given time there are numerous issues of this nature under review at each plant.

The NRC and the licensee continue to interact with Members of Congress and Congressional staff regarding weld records for construction field welds made by the Pullman-Higgins Company. Although the NRC staff has not identified any specific inadequacies on existing welds at the Seabrook Station, a number of records-keeping discrepancies have been discovered which caused the staff to request additional actions by the licensee. The licensee is conducting an additional review of its as-built isometric drawings to identify those Pullman-Higgins field welds for which radiography was required by code and to verify that all required records concerning these welds are stored in the licensee's records vault. The licensee is presently implementing a weld record reverification program and has found several minor radiographic records discrepancies among the records reviewed to date; however, no weld deficiencies that could affect nuclear safety have been identified. The weld records review is expected to be completed by the end of August.

You also asked to be informed about future meetings or correspondence between the NRC, other Members of Congress, and the licensee involving the review of safety-related records at Seabrook. The Commission's Office of Congressional Affairs will keep your staff advised of significant aspects of the Seabrook weld records review and related meetings. We will also provide you with copies of relevant correspondence.

Sincerely,

  
Kenneth M. Carr

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