



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

JUL 27 1984

50-416
50-417

The Honorable Ed Bethune
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Bethune:

This is in response to your letter of March 22, 1984, regarding problems at the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station and an estimate of when the plant will be fully operational. The Grand Gulf plant is operated by the Mississippi Power and Light Company (MP&L) and was given a low power (5%) license on June 16, 1982.

The problems at Grand Gulf in chronological order can be generally characterized as follows (responsible party indicated):

- (1) September 1982 to June 1983 - Design deficiency in the drywell cooling capability required modification of the insulation, cooling water system and chiller system to stay within temperature limits (Designer, Insulation Vendor).
- (2) October 1982 to September 1983 - Deficiencies in plant surveillance procedures and Technical Specifications were identified. Approximately 500 procedures were revised or written by MP&L as well as approximately 200 proposed changes to Technical Specifications submitted to NRC by MP&L (Procedures - MP&L, Tech Specs - MP&L, NRC).
- (3) November 1983 to March 1984 - Recertification of licensed operator staff was required due to discrepancies identified in their training qualification records (MP&L).
- (4) February 1984 to present - Further discrepancies were identified in the Technical Specifications. Approximately 400 problem sheets have been generated from extensive MP&L, NRC and consultant review (MP&L).
- (5) August 1983 to present - Deficiencies have been found in the Transamerica Delaval, Incorporated (TDI) diesel generators that are related to component failures. Two TDI diesels at Grand Gulf are the emergency AC power supply (Diesel Vendor).

As is the case for other nuclear power plants, there have been other problems of a more minor character. Since these have not delayed full power licensing, we have not listed them.

In regard to a schedule for full operation of Grand Gulf, the issuance of a full power license is contingent upon resolution of certain issues, particularly the Technical Specifications and TDI diesel issues. At this time, we believe that resolution of these two issues should occur by the end of this month. Therefore, a Commission meeting has been scheduled for July 31, 1984 for a briefing and possible vote on authorizing full-power operation for Grand Gulf.

All of these dates have to be considered tentative due to the magnitude of the overall effort in regard to the unresolved issues.

We hope that this response is satisfactory. If you should need further information on this matter, please let us know.

Sincerely,


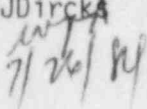
(Signed) William J. Dircks

William J. Dircks, Executive Director
for Operations

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As is the case for other nuclear power plants, there have been other problems of a more minor character. Since these have not delayed full power licensing, we have not listed them.

In regard to a schedule for full operation of Grand Gulf, the issuance of a full power license is contingent upon resolution of the Technical Specifications and TDI diesel issues. At this time, we believe that satisfactory resolution of these issues should occur by the end of this month. Thus, a full power

license could be issued in late July 1984. All of these dates have to be considered tentative due to the magnitude of the overall effort in regard to the unresolved issues.

We hope that this response is satisfactory. If you should need further information on this matter, please let us know.

Sincerely,

William J. Dircks, Executive Director
for Operations

Old with Present A as shown on work up 7/2/84

9/14 - no legal opinion

<i>9/14</i> DL:LB #4 DHouston/hmc 6/27/84	LA:DL LB #4 MDuncan 6/27/84	DL:LB #4 EAdensam 6/5/84	AD:DL Tnova; 9/5/84	DTB:DL DEisenhut 7/1/84
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