

LLOYD BENTSEN  
TEXAS

COMMITTEES:  
FINANCE  
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS  
JOINT ECONOMIC  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

January 4, 1985

Mr. Carlton C. Kammerer, Director  
Office of Congressional Affairs  
The United States Nuclear Regulatory  
Commission  
1717 H Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Kammerer:

Larry Beeman has contacted me concerning the delays in the Comanche Peak Nuclear power plant. A copy of this correspondence is attached for your reference.

In view of the concerns expressed by Mr. Beeman, I would appreciate your thorough review of this matter. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Lloyd Bentsen

Enclosure

PLEASE REPLY TO:

912 Federal Building  
Austin, Texas 78701

8502200472 850205  
PDR ADCK 05000445  
H PDR

EDO --- 000278

Larry Beeman  
206 Guadalupe Drive  
Athens, Texas 75751

November 26, 1984

The Honorable Lloyd Bentsen  
United States Senate  
240 Russell Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bentsen,

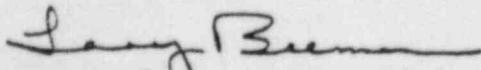
We all recognize that nuclear power generation is a highly volatile issue. I believe the opponents to be a minority, albeit a vocal minority. Certainly they have their reasons to be opposed. However, that issue has been thoroughly debated and the outcome was that our good would most be served by the building of nuclear generating stations.

I would suggest to you that the reason we are building nuclear generating stations is that they have been judged to be our best, if not only, economical alternative to fossil fuel power. This is a position I happen to be in agreement with. It will only be economical if now that we have decided build them, we get on with it and build them.

We have been haggling over the Commanche Peak plant for some time now. As a lifelong citizen of Texas and a member of the human race I believe in the need for safety inspections prior to bringing the plant on line. It seems to me that the very bureaucracy the last election mandated against is very alive and well. The only way that plant can ever be cost effective is to get it on line. It appears to me that we are either still debating the issue or the bureaucracy has engulfed us.

Please do what you can to cut through the red tape and get this plant on line.

Sincerely,

  
Larry Beeman

LB:pc



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

The Honorable Lloyd Bentsen  
United States Senator  
912 Federal Building  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Senator Bentsen:

Thank you for forwarding the November 26, 1984 letter of Mr. Larry Beeman. We have reviewed the concerns raised by Mr. Beeman and are providing you with the necessary information for your response to him.

The NRC is responsible under the Atomic Safety Act of 1954, as amended, to assure that licensed nuclear power plants provide adequate protection of the public health and safety. Consistent with its statutory responsibilities, it is the policy of the Commission that the licensing of nuclear power plants should be conducted in an expeditious manner, consistent with the requirements of fairness (Enclosure). I can assure you that the Commission is conducting the licensing proceeding of the Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station (CPSES) in accordance with applicable laws, NRC regulations, and the Commission's policy statement.

The NRC Staff has also formed a special task force to address approximately 500 allegations regarding the adequacy of CPSES plant construction. The safety concerns raised in these allegations involve complex technical matters which need to be thoroughly investigated by the NRC to determine the quality of the plant's design and construction. Certain of the allegations evaluated to date have been shown to have safety significance requiring corrective action by Texas Utilities. The task force is making every effort to expeditiously complete its evaluation and to present its findings to the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) in the licensing hearings for CPSES.

Additionally, although the plant has essentially been built, there are design and construction items, modifications, inspections and tests which must be completed before the CPSES can be licensed. For example, there are several Safety Evaluation Report outstanding issues which need to be resolved. The more significant of these issues pertain to the safe shutdown design of the plant and the design of certain emergency response equipment and related emergency operating procedures. The plant recently completed major preoperational testing to verify equipment operability at elevated temperatures and pressures and the results of these tests are being evaluated. These tests must be satisfactorily performed to determine the plant's readiness for licensing. The applicant recently announced that there are additional tests, inspections and modifications that remain to be completed. The applicant expects this effort to delay the facility's readiness for licensing by several months.

The Honorable Lloyd Bentsen

- 2 -

The NRC is making efforts to complete the staff evaluations and inspections at a pace commensurate with the facility's readiness for operation. The ASLB is also making similar efforts to complete the hearing process.

I hope that this brief response and the information enclosed with this letter will be helpful to you in responding to Mr. Beeman. If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

(Signed) T. A. Rehm

William J. Dircks  
Executive Director for Operations

Enclosure:  
Statement of Policy on Conduct  
of Licensing Proceedings,  
Federal Regulations, Pages  
PS-49 through PS-51

DISTRIBUTION:  
See attached page

\*SEE PREVIOUS PAGE FOR CONCURRENCES  
REVISED 01/29/85 (kab)

OCA  
2/4/85  
01/ /85

EDO  
WDircks  
02/1 /85

TRT:DL  
\*RWessman:kab  
01/25/85

D:TRT  
\*VNoonan  
01/25/85

OELD  
\*JScinto  
01/25/85

D:DL  
\*DEisenhut  
01/28/85

D:NR  
HDenon  
01/31/85

Handwritten initials and date: 1/30



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

EDO PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL

FROM:

SEN. LLOYD BENTSEN

DUE: 01/31/85

EDO CONTROL: 000278  
DOC DT: 01/04/85  
FINAL REPLY:

TO:

KAMMERER

FOR SIGNATURE OF:

\*\* GREEN \*\*

SECY NO: 85-24

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DESC:

ENCLOSES LETTER FROM LARRY BEEMAN RE DELAYS IN  
LICENSING OF COMANCHE PEAK

ROUTING:

DEYOUNG  
RMARTIN  
GCUNNINGHAM

ASSIGNED TO: NRR  
CONTACT: DENTON

DATE: 01/16/85

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

REPLY TO AUSTIN, TEXAS OFFICE.

Received NRR: 1/18/85  
contact: Eisenhut

cc: Case/Denton  
PPAS

*Boonen*



CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Sen Lloyd Bentsen

NUMBER: SECY 85 24

LOGGING DATE: 1/14/85

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

ACTION: OFFICE: EDO  
AUTHOR: Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, Const Ref  
AFFILIATION: Larry Beeman  
LETTER DATE: 1-4-85 FILE CODE: ID&R-5 Comanche Peake  
ADDRESSEE: OCA  
SUBJECT: Delays in Lic Process for Comanche PEak

ACTION: Direct Reply...Suspense: Jan 22

DISTRIBUTION: OCA to Ack

Rec'd Off. EDO  
Date... 1-16-85  
Time... 8:17

SPECIAL HANDLING: None

SIGNATURE DATE:

FOR THE COMMISSION: Billie C.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

January 4, 1985

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The United States Nuclear Regulatory  
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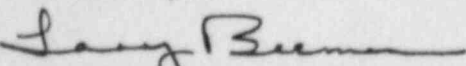
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