



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION ~~MISSION~~ CORRESPONDENCE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

March 4, 1985

DOCKETED
USNRC

85 MAR -7 AM 1:17

Peter B. Bloch, Esq., Chairman
Administrative Judge
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dr. Kenneth A. McCollom
Administrative Judge
Dean, Division of Engineering,
Architecture and Technology
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, OK 74078

Herbert Grossman, Alternate Chairman
Administrative Judge
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dr. Walter H. Jordan
Administrative Judge
881 W. Outer Drive
Oak Ridge, TN 34830

Elizabeth B. Johnson
Administrative Judge
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

In the Matter of
Texas Utilities Generating Electric, et al.
(Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and 2)
Docket Nos. 50-445 and 50-446 OL

Dear Administrative Judges:

During a telephone conference call among the parties and the Board Chairman, the Staff was requested to furnish a status report concerning the matters identified in "NRC Staff Request for Extension of Time to Respond to Case's Motion for Establishment of Evidentiary Standard and Request for Board Directed Independent Inspection" (February 20, 1985). These matters require completion before the Staff would be prepared to respond adequately to Case's Motion.

1) With respect to completion of TRT SSERs, Mr. Noonan's February 19, 1985 affidavit indicates that completion of remaining TRT SSers is anticipated by the end of March 1985. The SSER covering Civil/Structural Issues and certain miscellaneous issues has been printed and will be distributed during the current week (the week starting March 4, 1985). The three SSERs covering Mechanical and Piping Issues, QA/QC issues and Coatings issues are currently being drafted by TRT members who were involved in the work. These SSERs are a priority work effort. It still appears to be a reasonable expectation that these SSERs can be completed by the end of the month of March; but since Mr. Noonan's principal direction to the personnel involved has been to assure the SSERs explain the basis for the conclusions as fully

8503080339 850304
PDR ADOCK 05000445
G PDR

DS07

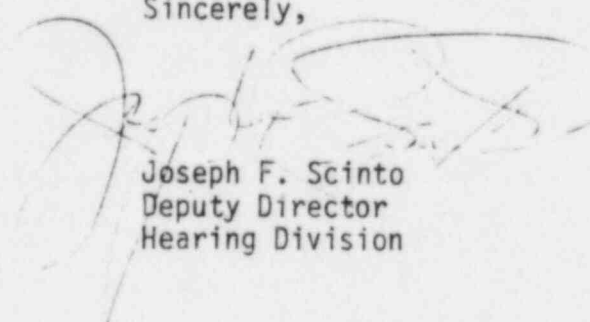
as they are able to do so, these dates remain best estimates. The guiding principal for the Staff had been accuracy and adequacy of the work product of Staff members. As a result, the Staff's completion dates are based on estimates by the personnel involved in writing the SSERs, rather than on artificially imposed deadlines, which appears to be suggested by "CASE's Opposition to Staff Motion for Indefinite Extension of Time." 1/

2) With respect to the related subject of the summary disposition issues, NRC Staff members met with Applicants' personnel on February 26 and 27, 1985 and provided areas in which the Staff had questions about Applicants' submittals. The Staff position on these issues currently awaits information on how Applicants plan to respond to the Staff's questions.

3) With respect to the reports of the two panels of NRC senior staff members formed to assist the Comanche Peak Project Director, the schedules for these panels are still based on completion by the end of March. This may be affected by completion of other ongoing work.

4) With respect to the Staff's assessment of Applicants' program to respond to TRT findings, the Staff is currently holding a series of meetings with Applicants in order to understand to nature and extent of that program and to understand how it is being implemented. While it may not be necessary to await the completion of the program in order to determine if the Applicants' program needs to be augmented, it is essential that the Staff understand the nature of Applicants' program.

Sincerely,



Joseph F. Scinto
Deputy Director
Hearing Division

cc: Service List

1/ Further, I flatly deny CASE's gratuitous insult to Staff counsel. (CASE's Opposition, p.4). I trust that it not indicative of CASE's counsel's practice; it is certainly not a practice of Staff counsel.