

MAR 31 1983

The Honorable Thomas J. Downey  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Downey:

This responds to your letter of February 18, 1983, in which you requested information regarding emergency preparedness for the Shoreham Nuclear Power Station. In particular, you requested information concerning requirements for emergency planning in the event the applicant, Long Island Lighting Company, should apply for an interim license which is referred to as a temporary operating license in the NRC authorization bill, Public Law 97-415, dated January 4, 1983. Responses to the four specific questions raised in your letter are provided in the enclosure.

Please be assured that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission shares your concern for the safe operation of the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant. I believe this concern is reflected in the actions taken by the Commission over the past few years including the regulatory requirements for more stringent emergency preparedness provisions.

I trust that the responses provided in this letter fulfill your request for information regarding emergency preparedness requirements for the Shoreham facility. Please contact me if you desire additional information.

Sincerely,

(Signed) William J. Dircks

William J. Dircks  
Executive Director for Operations

Enclosure:  
Responses to Questions  
on Shoreham

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RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS FROM CONGRESSMAN DOWNEY  
CONCERNING EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR SHOREHAM

Question 1      When does the NRC currently estimate that this plant will be ready for fuel loading and low power testing?

Response        The NRC staff estimates that the Shoreham plant will be ready for fuel loading and low power testing by the third calendar quarter of 1983. The applicant announced, on January 19, 1983, that the plant would be ready for fuel loading late in the second calendar quarter of 1983 at the earliest.

Question 2      Could you provide a detailed description of what emergency preparedness FEMA and the NRC would require for an interim license and how would this differ from those required for a full operating license?

Response        FEMA and the NRC would require the same level of emergency preparedness for an interim (i.e., temporary operating) license as is required for a full-power operating license. These emergency preparedness requirements are specified in 10 CFR Part 50.47 and Appendix E thereto and include, as a minimum, a detailed description of the following elements: assignment of responsibility, onsite emergency organization, emergency response support and resources, emergency classification system, notification methods and procedures, emergency communications,

public education and information, emergency facilities and equipment, accident assessment, protective response, radiological exposure control, medical and public health support, recovery and reentry planning and post-accident operations, exercises and drills, radiological emergency response training, and responsibility for the planning effort.

Question 3

Would FEMA require an evacuation drill for an interim license prior to submitting a finding to the NRC regarding the evacuation plan for Shoreham.

Response

As specified in 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix E, Section IV.F, a full scale emergency preparedness exercise, involving participation by local and State governments, is required within one year before issuance of a license to operate above 5% of rated power. This same requirement would apply to the issuance of an interim license.

Question 4

Since the authority to issue interim licenses exists for only one year (1983) what in the opinion of the NRC would be the effect of a utility receiving an interim operating license in 1983 but not being able to use it in 1984.

Responses

Operating licenses are normally issued a short time prior to the utility's need date for operation. The NRC would closely monitor any licensing action occurring near the end of the calendar year to ensure no departure from usual Commission practice or the provisions of the authorization bill (Public Law 97-415) and the intent of Congress.

THOMAS J. DOWNEY  
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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
February 18, 1983

COMMITTEE ON  
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Hon. Nunzio Palladino  
Chairman  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
1717 H Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As you know, serious questions have been raised this week on Long Island regarding emergency evacuation around the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant.

The county legislature has stated unequivocally that emergency evacuation is impossible. Since the county would be responsible for implementing any evacuation plan in an emergency, it is obvious that the decisions of the NRC in the near future regarding the utility will be watched with utmost interest on Long Island as well as in the nuclear industry at large. This is particularly true if LILCO decides to apply for an interim license.

As you know, the Long Island Lighting Company may be the first nuclear power plant to be considered by you for an interim license which permits low-level operation while outstanding issues, even involving safety, are resolved. In any event, it will likely be the first nuclear power plant considered for such a license without an emergency evacuation plan the local governments feel is feasible, should LILCO apply for one. My purpose in writing this letter is to determine under what rules and on what time table these decisions will be made by your agency. You will greatly assist my efforts in helping the people of Long Island understand their situation and the Federal government's role in protecting them, by providing answers to the questions below. I am sure I do not have to remind you that the recent revelations about the safety of systems interactions by James Conran, coupled with the doubt over emergency procedures, have made Shoreham a matter of the gravest concern in the homes of the area. I do not wish to fuel these fears, I wish to replace them to the extent possible with accurate information. I hope you can see, then, the necessity of providing full and timely answers to these questions:

1. When does the NRC currently estimate that this plant will be ready for fuel loading and low power testing?
2. Could you provide a detailed description of what emergency preparedness FEMA and the NRC would require

Hon. Palladino  
NRC

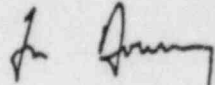
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for an interim license and how would this differ from those required for a full operating license?

3. Would FEMA require an evacuation drill for an interim license prior to submitting a finding to the NRC regarding the evacuation plan for Shoreham?
4. Since the authority to issue interim licenses exists for only one year (1983) what in the opinion of the NRC would be the effect of a utility receiving an interim operating license in 1983 but not being able to use it until 1984.

Again, I would appreciate your help in providing answers to these questions as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



THOMAS J. DOWNEY  
Member of Congress

TJD:cb