

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

MAY 5 1981

695
JULIUS NUMBER PR-2
PROPOSED RULE
46FR17216



Dear Senator Bentsen:

Thank you for your letter dated April 15, 1981 enclosing correspondence from your constituent, Harvey I. Cohn, who is concerned about proposed NRC regulations and legislation designed to reduce delays in the licensing process for nuclear power plants.

The diversion of staff resources and rethinking of safety requirements following the accident at Three Mile Island adversely affected licensing activity at the Commission. As a result, we estimate that in 1981 and 1982 approximately a dozen nuclear plants will be completed from 1 to 12 months before a full power license decision can be made. The Commission is concerned about this situation and is proposing a number of actions to correct it. Your constituent mentions several of these proposed changes.

Amendments to the Commission's Rules of Practice, 10 CFR Part 2, were published in the Federal Register for comment on March 18, 1981. These amendments, if adopted, should permit more timely conduct of NRC hearings by tightening the time allowed for each part of the process and by providing firmer time management. Public comments received by April 7, 1981 will be considered by the Commission before promulgation of a final rule.

Also on March 18, 1981, the Commission submitted proposed legislation to Congress, which would allow it to authorize interim reactor operation for fuel loading and low-power operating and testing before the completion of a hearing. Such interim operation would save at least two months and, where the low power testing revealed a need for repairs or modifications, could save substantially more time. This proposed authority would expire at the end of 1983 thereby assuring that this adjustment to our licensing requirements would be temporary and confined to those plants which have been directly affected by the Commission's post-TMI action.

I am enclosing for your information a copy of the proposed changes to Part 2 and of the letter to Congress transmitting the proposed legislation. I hope that this information is helpful in responding to your constituent.

Sincerely,

Signed by E. Fay

Carlton Kammerer, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

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Enclosure:

OFFICE	As stated	DCA				
SURNAME	Kent:rd					
DATE	4/30/81					

LLOYD BENTSEN
TEXAS

COMMITTEES:
FINANCE
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
JOINT ECONOMIC

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

Bentsen

April 15, 1981

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:

I recently received the enclosed constituent inquiry, and I would very much appreciate your providing me with any pertinent information you might have regarding the matter.

Your kind assistance is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Bentsen
Lloyd Bentsen

Enclosure

PLEASE REPLY TO:

912 Federal Building
Austin, Texas 78701
ATTN: Wanda Garcia

4/16...To OCA for Direct Reply..Suspense: May 11...Docket...81-0540

4321 Travis Street, Apt. 12
Dallas, Texas 75205
March 24, 1981

MAR 30 1981

Secretary of the Commission
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555
Attn: Docketing & Service Branch

Dear Sir/Madam:

While to you it may just seem like one more application to stamp, to people on the local level a nuclear power plant is a critical issue both medically and economically. To "streamline" the licensing procedure goes against any right of local citizens being able to choose, a right which is central to a democratic society.

Specifically, preventing intervenors from engaging in formal discovery with the N.R.C. staff means that facts about the plant can be suppressed by the utility. Obviously the group building the plant has the most information on it, both pro and con, and obviously they will not voluntarily release information detrimental to the granting of a license. The public has a right to have all the facts brought out before a nuclear power plant is constructed in their midst.

Finally, the granting of any kind of "interim" operating permit while hearings are still going on is totally unacceptable. Why bother to license plants at all if the whole process is just a sham? I personally believe that nuclear power is a big mistake. The licensing process, such as it is, is the only assurance I have that these plants will be built and operated within some safety parameters rather than in just the cheapest manner.

Sincerely,

Harvey I. Conn

Harvey I. Conn

CC: U.S. Rep. James M. Collins, U.S. Senator Lloyd M. Bentsen, Jr.