

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



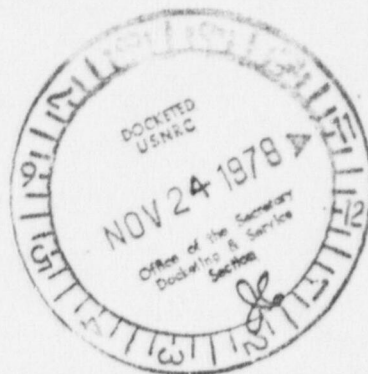
OFFICE OF THE
CHAIRMAN

November 22, 1978

50-549

NRC PUBLIC DOCUMENT ROOM

Mr. Charles A. Zielinski, Chairman
State of New York Public Service Commission
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12223



Dear Chairman Zielinski:

Thank you for your letter dated September 12, 1978 advising me of the recent changes to Article VIII of the Public Service Law and requesting my assistance in assuring that the final environmental statement for the Proposed Greene County Nuclear Power Plant at Cementon, New York will be issued by December 15, 1978, the date estimated by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Staff in a recent pleading to the Joint Hearing Board. I share your concern that the NRC Staff's review be completed in time to enable the Siting Board to comply with the new requirements of Article VIII of the Public Service Law. I assure you that the NRC Staff will make every effort to complete its review in an expeditious manner. I have asked Harold R. Denton, the Director of our Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, to review personally the situation and he plans to provide you with a more specific appraisal of the Staff's schedule for completion of its final environmental statement.

The Commission, too, has become concerned about the apparent inefficiencies involved in the procedures established for processing a license application in accord with the joint protocol between our two agencies. The expenditure of NRC resources for the Greene County application has been far beyond the level expected for such a procedure. Nevertheless, we continue to believe the objective of the joint protocol is in the best interests of all concerned. Accordingly, I have directed the NRC Staff to join with the appropriate members of the New York State staff to consider the problems that have led to the inefficiencies in the joint process and to propose alternative procedures that would provide an acceptable level of effectiveness.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Hendrie
Joseph M. Hendrie
Chairman

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