



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

NRC PDR

DEC 6 1978

Mr. A. F. Smith, III
Group Vice President
Gilbert Associates, Inc.
P. O. Box 1498
Reading, Pennsylvania 19603

Dear Mr. Smith:

SUBJECT: GAISSAR REVIEW SCHEDULE (STN 50-595)

We have established a schedule for review of the Standard Safety Analysis Report, GAISSAR, which was submitted as part of the Gilbert/Commonwealth application for Preliminary Design Approval (PDA) of a balance-of-plant (BOP) design. A summary of the key target milestone dates of that schedule in network format is provided as an enclosure for your information.

This schedule was discussed prior to final approval at a meeting here on November 9, 1978 between Messrs. Hottenstein and Krause of your organization and Messrs. Gammill, Heltemes and Conran of my Project Management staff. Serious concern was expressed by your representatives at that time that the projected PDA date for GAISSAR established under this schedule (i.e. October 1980) is 9-12 months later than had been planned by Gilbert/Commonwealth at the time the GAISSAR application was submitted. We recognize, of course, that this is a legitimate concern and regret the delay involved. As was discussed at that meeting, this delayed schedule reflects principally (1) delays which have occurred in completing the review of, and in establishing staff positions in critical interface areas for, one of the mating NSSS designs (RESAR-414) referenced in GAISSAR, (2) delay in initiating the GAISSAR review, even after completion of the RESAR-414 review, due to serious resource problems in some critical review areas within the staff, and (3) the priority ranking assigned to standardized designs which have not been referenced by a utility in a CP application.

Further consideration was given, subsequent to the November 9 meeting, to the question of relative priority ranking and scheduling of the GAISSAR project with respect to other balance-of-plant, construction permit and operating license applications currently in-house. The conclusion again, however, was that the priority which has been assigned to the GAISSAR project (currently 31 out of 32), and the review schedule which has been established for it (culminating in PDA issuance in October 1980), do properly reflect all of the exigencies of the current situation. I regret that this schedule cannot

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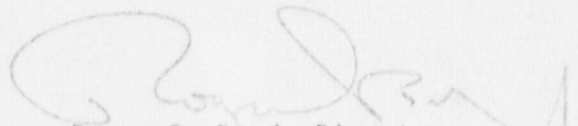
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be improved upon given the current staff workload and available resources. I can assure you, however, that the status of the GAISSAR project will be monitored closely by the cognizant project management staff and reviewed periodically as required by the recently-established Licensing Schedule Review Committee to help assure that no further significant slippages occur in the GAISSAR schedule.

As a final point, although not indicated explicitly on the summary schedule enclosed, the GAISSAR design will be reviewed concurrently with respect to the three mating NSSS designs referenced; the combined summary schedule enclosed will be broken out into three separate networks when the staff review actually commences. After the GAISSAR review is underway, any matters of disagreement or areas of uncertainty which might arise should be discussed with the Licensing Project Manager, Mr. James H. Conran. If Mr. Conran cannot resolve such matters himself, he will arrange for a meeting with appropriate management to discuss them. This will also help to avoid further unnecessary schedule delays.

Many of the milestones of the staff review require specific input, preparation, or participation from you, such as responses to questions, ACRS meetings, and responses to public and agency comments. For this reason, and also in view of the nature of the discussions at the November 9 meeting, we believe that you should critically review the dates associated with these key milestones and advise us as to whether you feel the dates are realistic or should be adjusted. If you feel that any further discussion is required regarding any aspect of this schedule, please feel free to contact me, or arrangements for any further discussions can be made through Mr. Conran, if you prefer.

Sincerely,



Roger S. Boyd, Director
Division of Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Summary GAISSAR Review Schedule

cc: See attached sheet

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cc: Mr. H. Lorenz
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