

SEP 29 1986

Docket No. 50-461

MEMORANDUM FOR: Harold R. Denton, Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: James G. Keppler, Regional Administrator, Region III

SUBJECT: CLINTON NUCLEAR POWER STATION LOW POWER LICENSE RECOMMENDATION

The NRC Region III staff and I recommend the issuance of a Low Power Operating License for the Clinton Power Station.

The bases for this recommendation are contained in an extensive Readiness Assessment Report, which is attached. The results of that evaluation are summarized below and form the basis for our recommendation.

1. Based on our inspection program, we have determined that the construction and preoperational test inspection programs have been completed, and that Illinois Power Company (IP) has met license commitments, and that the as-built Clinton design is in accordance with NRC regulations.
2. A Region III staff evaluation has concluded that IP is ready to load fuel and is capable of safe low power operation of Clinton.
3. Each Region III professional was requested by memoranda dated July 30, 1986, to identify concerns beyond those already addressed by either inspection reports or staff testimony. There are no unresolved concerns in Region III relative to the issuance of a low power operating license for Clinton.

Highlights of the evaluation include:

- ° In excess of 29,000 inspection hours have been devoted to the Clinton Power Station since NRC inspections began in 1975.
- ° All preoperational tests required prior to fuel load have been completed, and all required test results have been inspected by the NRC. There are no outstanding test exceptions which require resolution prior to fuel load.

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- ° Based on our inspections and reviews, we have concluded that the quality assurance program at Clinton has resulted in construction of the plant substantially in accordance with regulatory requirements and will support safe facility operation.
- ° Reviews of the proposed Technical Specifications (TS) and the surveillance test program, as part of our preoperational inspections, have provided reasonable assurance that the TS are compatible with and accurately reflect the as-built plant status.
- ° Numerous allegations regarding Clinton activities have been received and addressed since 1979. These allegations have been addressed and satisfactorily resolved for issuance of a low power license.

In addition, we plan to continue our inspections and evaluations to monitor IP's preparation and the plant's suitability for subsequent power escalation. During the next several months, we plan to include the following in our efforts:

- ° An operational readiness inspection will be conducted prior to the Commission briefing for full power license issuance. This inspection will include a review of plant operation, maintenance, quality assurance, and administrative control of the plant.
- ° A SALP Board evaluation is scheduled to review licensee performance through August 1986.

In conclusion, I find that Clinton has been constructed substantially in accord with Construction Permit CPPR-137, with the FSAR, and with NRC regulations. I also find that the Illinois Power Company is ready to load fuel and commence safe low power operation of the facility.

Original Signed by A. Bert Davis

James G. Keppler
Regional Administrator

Attachment: Region III Readiness
Assessment Report for Clinton

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Warnick

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Nobel

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