



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

May 6, 1980

Honorable John F. Ahearne
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

SUBJECT: NEAR-TERM CONSTRUCTION PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Dear Dr. Ahearne:

During its 241st meeting, May 1-3, 1980, the ACRS reviewed the status of applications for near-term construction permits (NTCPs). In its review the Committee had the benefit of discussions with the NRC Staff and with representatives of the applicants for the NTCPs. A subcommittee meeting on this subject was held on April 9, 1980.

The six NTCP applicants and the reactor types involved are as follows:

Black Fox Station, Units 1 and 2, Public Service Company of Oklahoma, General Electric BWR/6, Mark III pressure suppression containment

Skagit Nuclear Power Project, Units 1 and 2, Puget Sound Power & Light Company, General Electric BWR/6, Mark III pressure suppression containment

Pilgrim Station, Unit 2, Boston Edison Company, Combustion Engineering custom NSSS, large dry containment

Perkins Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2 and 3, Duke Power Company, Combustion Engineering CESSAR System 80 NSSS, large dry containment

Allens Creek Nuclear Generating Station, Houston Lighting & Power Company, General Electric BWR/6, Mark III pressure suppression containment

Pebble Springs Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, Portland General Electric Company, Babcock and Wilcox custom NSSS, large dry containment

The NRC Staff has approached this matter primarily by examining the Action Plan and judging the applicability and scheduling of each item to an NTCP. This procedure has resulted in placing many important items in a category wherein the NRC has yet to develop criteria applicable to construction permit applicants. Action Plan item II.A on siting introduces questions whose resolution must be achieved prior to issuance of a construction permit.

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Item II.B on degraded or melted cores bears directly on containment design, as well as other safety features. Item II.C on reliability engineering and risk assessment could bear significantly on the design requirements for many important plant systems. There are many other items in the Action Plan and in the ACRS report of April 17, 1980 which also might impact directly on important design aspects of these plants.

Mr. Harold Denton advised the Committee that he envisaged permitting construction to proceed if there are no obvious site-related questions in terms of the Report of the Siting Policy Task Force (NUREG-0625) and if the containment design pressure were such as to withstand hydrogen combustion, on the assumption that other design aspects could be changed later if so required.

The utility representatives advised the ACRS that, in their opinion, there was a need for the resolution of several policy questions which relate to how and whether construction permit applications will be processed in the near term. The utilities identified the following six policy issues as being in most urgent need of resolution:

1. Siting
2. Emergency planning
3. Degraded core conditions
4. Control room design
5. Management for design and construction
6. Reliability and risk assessment

The utility representatives recommended that a concerted effort be undertaken to develop an acceptable interim approach to resolution by the Commission of such issues in the next few months. The ACRS supports this recommendation and urges that appropriate Staff resources be made available for this purpose. An ACRS Subcommittee plans to work actively with the Staff on the topic with the anticipation that the full Committee would review the NTCP matter within a few months.

Sincerely,



Milton S. Plesset
Chairman

References:

1. Memorandum from D. F. Ross, NRC, to R. F. Fraley, ACRS, Subject: Transmittal of NTCP Requirements List, dated April 22, 1980.
2. Memorandum from William F. Kane, NRC, to Addressees, Subject: Request for Review of Proposed TMI-2-Related Requirements for NTCP Applicants, dated April 4, 1980.
3. U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, "NRC Action Plans Developed as a Result of the TMI-2 Accident," USNRC Report NUREG-0660 Draft 3, dated March 5, 1980.
4. U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, "Report of the Siting Policy Task Force," USNRC Report NUREG-0625, dated August, 1979.