

October 3, 2003

MEMORANDUM TO: Laura A. Dudes, Section Chief  
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New, Research and Test Reactors Program  
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs, NRR

FROM: Michael L. Scott, Project Manager /RA/  
New Reactors Section  
New, Research and Test Reactors Program  
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs, NRR

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2003, TELEPHONE CONFERENCE  
CALL WITH PROSPECTIVE EARLY SITE PERMIT APPLICANTS  
REGARDING SCHEDULING OF THE STAFF'S TECHNICAL REVIEWS

On Monday, September 24, 2003, a telephone conference call was held among representatives of the three prospective early site permit (ESP) applicants (Dominion Energy, Inc., Exelon Generating Company, LLC; and Entergy Nuclear, Inc.) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff. Representatives of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) also participated. The purpose of the conference, which was held at the request of the NRC staff, was to provide the prospective applicants the staff's plans for scheduling technical reviews of the three prospective ESP applications. A list of participants in the conference is provided in Attachment 1.

The staff began the phone conference by stating that it will be necessary to stagger the ESP technical reviews to integrate the ESP reviews with license renewal reviews and to respond to the transfer of funding from ESP reviews to license renewal reviews. However, the staff added that the acceptance reviews of all three applications will be performed immediately upon receipt of the respective applications, and the quality assurance inspections will also be scheduled as previously discussed with the prospective applicants.

The staff noted that resources, particularly in the environmental area, are already in place to support the review of the Dominion application, which is expected to be submitted by the date the prospective applicant had originally planned. Therefore, the staff indicated that the technical review of the Dominion application will begin immediately upon acceptance of the application. Technical review of the other two applications will begin in late November 2003 and late January 2004, two and four months respectively from receipt of the Dominion application.

One prospective applicant asked whether additional staff resources could be allocated to ESP reviews to avoid the need to stagger the technical reviews. The staff responded that the issue had been addressed by management in budgeting considerations and that additional funding was not available. In response to a question from Entergy, the staff stated that the staggering of the technical reviews would not affect plans for noticing the mandatory public hearings for the

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applications. The staff suggested that the prospective applicants consider what was said during this phone conference and that they contact the staff if they wish to discuss the issue further.

Project No. 689

Attachment: As stated

cc w/att: See next page

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of the technical reviews would not affect plans for noticing the mandatory public hearings for the applications. The staff suggested that the prospective applicants consider what was said during this phone conference and that they contact the staff if they wish to discuss the issue further.

Project No. 689

Attachment: As stated

cc w/att: See next page

**ACCESSION NUMBER: ML032730493 \*See previous concurrence**

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<b>NAME</b>	<b>MScott</b>	<b>LDudes</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>10/01/03</b>	<b>10/1/03</b>

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SEPTEMBER 24, 2003  
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S. Koenick

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M. Smith (Dominion)  
G. Grecheck (Dominion)  
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G. Zinke (Entergy)  
M. Bourgeois (Entergy)  
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