

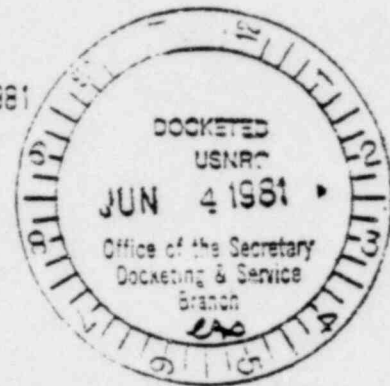


Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

DOCKET NUMBER
PR-2 50-482

DOCKET NUMBER
PROPOSED RULE PR-2
(46 FR 20215)

MAY 29 1981



Honorable Jim Jeffries
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Jeffries:

This will acknowledge your recent letter in which you referred a letter from your constituent:

Mr. Arthur J. Doyle
President and Chairman of the Board
Kansas City Power & Light Company
P.O. Box 679
Kansas City, Missouri 64141

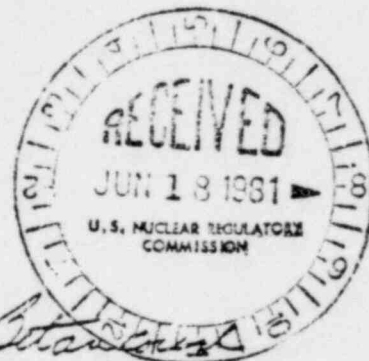
Because the subject of your constituent's letter does not fall within the purview of the Department of Energy, we have forwarded your letter to:

Mr. Frank Ingram
Assistant to the Director
Office of Public Affairs
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Sincerely,

Bonnie Betancourt

Bonnie Betancourt
Director of Special Projects
Office of the Executive Secretary



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JIM JEFFRIES
2ND DISTRICT, KANSAS

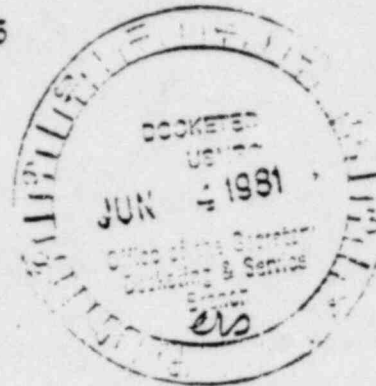
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WASHINGTON OFFICE
128 CANNON BUILDING
PHONE: (202) 225-460

2ND DISTRICT OFFICE
ROOM 230
444 SOUTHEAST QUINN
TOMPKA, KANSAS 666
(913) 293-2811

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

May 21, 1981




The Honorable Jack Daly
Assistant Secretary
Congressional, Intergovernmental and Public Affairs
Department of Energy
James Forrestal Building
1000 Independence Avenue Southwest
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Daly;

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter I received from Mr. Arthur Doyle, President of Kansas City Power and Light Company regarding the licensing of nuclear power plants. I would appreciate your comments on this situation and whether the new Administration is making any attempts to expedite this process.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

JIM JEFFRIES
Member of Congress

JJ.m
Enclosure

KANSAS CITY LIGHT COMPANY

AVENUE

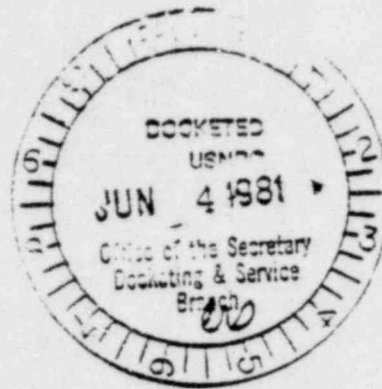
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MISSOURI 64141

ARTHUR J. DOYLE
PRESIDENT
AND
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

March 20, 1981

Honorable James E. Jeffries
House of Representatives
424 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515



Dear Mr. Jeffries:

About a year ago we brought to your attention the potential delay by the NRC in processing an Operating License for our Wolf Creek Nuclear Generating Unit. Since then, due in part to our perceived NRC delay and in part to construction delays, the scheduled full load date for Wolf Creek has been deferred six months to April 1983 and the commercial date of operation has been deferred 12 months to April 1984.

As indicated by the attached letter dated February 17, 1981, from the Chairman of the Atomic Industrial Forum to the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, it appears that our concern about the potential NRC delay was and is warranted. We are now concerned that the impact of the current NRC backlog in processing operating licenses will trigger delays in the 1983-84 period unless significant changes are made promptly in NRC procedures and caseload assignments. It is our understanding that the NRC's license review program is now bogged down, under-staffed and will result in completed plants costing some \$2 billion each to remain idle pending NRC's Staff reviews. This is a disservice to the public, for each year of delay adds some \$250 million of carrying charges to the completed cost of each plant. Those additional costs must be borne by electric ratepayers. During the delay, required electric energy must be generated, in part, by our scarce fossil fuels--oil and natural gas.

On behalf of the public we serve, I ask your help, as a member of Congress, to require NRC to expedite its licensing of nuclear power plants, particularly the operating licenses for completed plants, so that our Missouri and Kansas customers will not have to pay a dear price for any NRC delay in licensing Wolf Creek for the 1983-84 startup.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Arthur J. Doyle".

AJD:ca
Enclosure

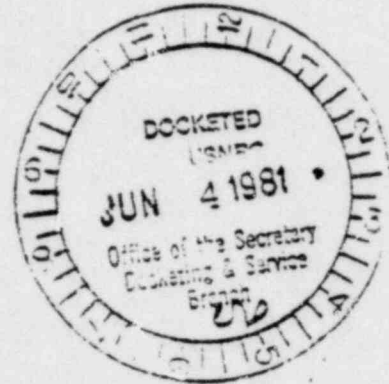
Atomic Industrial Forum, Inc.
7101 Wisconsin Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20014
Telephone (301) 854-9250
TWX 7108249602 ATOMIC FOR DC

DOCKET NUMBER 50-482
PROD. & UTIL. FAC.

Francis M. Staszek
Chairman

February 17, 1981

The Honorable John Ahearne
Chairman
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20006



Dear Chairman Ahearne:

The Executive Committee of the Atomic Industrial Forum is deeply distressed over the third monthly NRR status report recently submitted to Congress. The report identifies newly acknowledged delays in NRC's licensing process which will result in substantial slippages in the issuance of operating licenses for 11 plants previously expected to begin commercial operation in 1981 and 1982.

These 11 plants will have completed all construction and be poised to contribute to the safe and economical generation of electricity in many parts of the country. Instead, they will collectively stand idle for some 80 months waiting for administrative procedures to conclude and for operating licenses to be issued unless procedures available to you are invoked. There is no safety risk in your applying these procedures.

Estimated costs to the public for the idling of such facilities approximate one million dollars per day for each. Thus, NRC's present course can contribute to an additional and unnecessary cost to the public of 2.4 billion dollars. In our judgment, this enormous waste argues for drastic remedial steps. We believe, among many remedies which may be effective, that the NRC should commence promptly to:

- Repeal suspension of the immediate effectiveness rule.

In 1979, the NRC suspended 10 CFR 2.764 and instituted a procedure which delays issuance of the operating license in contested cases until the Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeals Board has ruled on the effectiveness

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of the Licensee and decision, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission as itself had an opportunity to pass on issuance of the License. This procedure allows the ASLAB 60 days to render its decision and the NRC 10 additional days. During these 80 days, the affected completed plants will be in a state of cost of more than 800 million dollars. The delay in procedure was never warranted and should be decided immediately. In addition, the Commission should consider exercising the powers available under 10 CFR 2.760 (b)(2) to issue licenses itself when there are compelling public interests.

- Utilize generic proceedings more effectively.

NRC should support and enforce the policy that any matter currently being, or scheduled to be considered in a rulemaking should not be subject to litigation in individual licensing proceedings. Such matters are generic in nature and any determinations of how individual plants should address these issues should be held in abeyance until the conclusion of the rulemakings. For example, issues related to degraded core conditions, especially the hydrogen issue, can be eliminated in individual proceedings by publishing the Interim Rule along with a clear policy statement on its intended use.

- Increase Licensing Board and NRC Staff discipline.

NRC should issue instructions to Licensing Boards to make aggressive efforts to shorten hearing schedules, and NRC should allocate increased resources to these Licensing Boards to facilitate such schedule shortening. In addition, the NRC staff should be given instructions to ensure prompt readiness for hearings, and sufficient NRC staff resources should be applied to hearings. Finally, the Commission should actively monitor the progress being made by both Licensing Boards and the NRC staff in bringing hearing processes to expeditious conclusions and, on a case by case basis as necessary, issue appropriate guidance to ensure such expeditious conclusions.

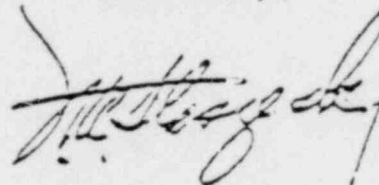
Increase NRC Staff support to FEMA.

NRC should provide increased staff support to FEMA to expedite review and approval of state and local emergency plans. The capability to carry out emergency plans effectively can adequately be judged without full examination of the entire spectrum of minute details associated with emergency planning. In particular, low power operating licenses should be allowed prior to final review of emergency plans.

In closing, it is worth noting that the delays affecting these 11 plants represent only the tip of the iceberg of a more fundamental problem. The lack of NRC Staff committed to processing licenses will present a ripple effect of delays on the remaining plants under construction that will result in billions more dollars in unnecessary costs to consumers. It is thus crucial that the NRC focus its available staff and Licensing Board resources on casework and intensify its effort to bring about necessary procedural reforms. Projects not directed toward this goal and not of fundamental safety importance should be given a lower priority.

We shall continue our search for additional measures that would eliminate licensing delays which are unrelated to public health and safety. Meanwhile, we would be pleased to discuss with you any of our suggestions in greater detail.

Sincerely,



FMS:seu