

Docket No.: STN 50-470F

January 27, 1983
LD-83-005

Mr. H. R. Denton, Director
Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: CESSAR-F Review Schedule

Dear Mr. Denton:

As you are aware, the final version of the Combustion Engineering Standard Safety Analysis Report, CESSAR-F, is in the final stages of its review by the NRC staff. Because of the projected slippage in the schedule for the Palo Verde OL (the first application referencing CESSAR-F) to August 1, 1983, however, the NRC appears to have automatically slipped the Final Design Approval (FDA) for CESSAR-F to a scheduled date of July 29, 1983.

In 1982 the NRC docketed the Washington Public Power Supply System's FSAR for WNP-3 which references CESSAR-F. Completing the CESSAR-F review now is necessary if the Staff is to have a "clean" SER for CESSAR-F to use in its review of the WNP-3 FSAR. This will remove the requirement for duplicate reviews, help simplify the Staff's task and, make the overall review process for WNP-3 more efficient. In addition, early issuance of the FDA will provide the necessary time for the NRC to incorporate the FDA into the OL for Palo Verde.

Combustion Engineering (C-E) believes that the administrative slippage in the CESSAR-F schedule is unwarranted and is counterproductive to both the NRC's and the several applicants' best interests. The initial Safety Evaluation Report (SER) on CESSAR-F was issued in November 1981, more than a year ago. The SER included only four open items and twenty confirmatory items. C-E has submitted all information required to respond to those open and confirmatory items and is currently working with the Staff to answer any new questions related to those submittals. It appears that with appropriate attention by the Staff, these issues can be closed out in March 1983. The only other significant issue raised since the SER involves the Staff's questions related to PORV's. The questions stem from the concerns initially raised by the ACRS and is the subject of Task Action Plan A-45. Responses to the Staff's questions on PORV's are being handled on a generic basis and thus should not delay the issuance of the FDA.

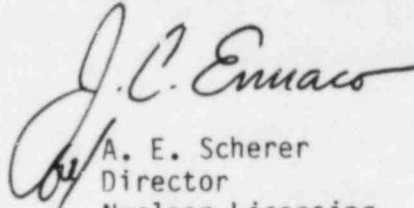
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In summary, C-E believes that it is both possible and desireable for the NRC to issue the CESSAR-F FDA by March 1983. We are prepared to meet with you and your staff, if necessary, to resolve any misunderstandings which may prevent that goal from being reached.

If you have any questions on this matter, please feel free to contact me or Mr. G. A. Davis, of my staff, at (203) 688-1911, extension 2803.

Very truly yours,

COMBUSTION ENGINEERING, INC.


A. E. Scherer
Director
Nuclear Licensing

AES:tmr

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