



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

MAY 5 1981

696

The Honorable John Erlenborn
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

DOCKET NUMBER

PROPOSED RULE

PR-2

46 FR 17216

Dear Congressman Erlenborn:

Thank you for your letter dated April 10, 1981 enclosing correspondence from your constituent, Shari Hartsing, who is concerned about proposed regulations and legislation designed to reduce delays in the licensing process for nuclear power plants.

The diversion of staff resources and rethinking of safety requirements following the accident at Three Mile Island adversely affected licensing activity at the Commission. As a result, we estimate that in 1981 and 1982 approximately a dozen nuclear plants will be completed from 1 to 12 months before a full power license decision can be made. The Commission is concerned about this situation and is proposing a number of actions to correct it. Your constituent mentions several of these proposed changes.

Amendments to the Commission's Rules of Practice, 10 CFR Part 2, were published in the Federal Register for comment on March 18, 1981. These amendments, if adopted, should permit more timely conduct of NRC hearings by tightening the time allowed for each part of the process and by providing firmer time management. Public comments received by April 7, 1981 will be considered by the Commission before promulgation of a final rule.

Also on March 18, 1981, the Commission submitted proposed legislation to Congress, which would allow it to authorize interim reactor operation for fuel loading and low-power operating and testing before the completion of a hearing. Such interim operation would save at least two months and, where the low power testing revealed a need for repairs or modifications, could save substantially more time. This proposed authority would expire at the end of 1983 thereby assuring that this adjustment to our licensing requirements would be temporary and confined to those plants which have been directly affected by the Commission's post-TMI action.

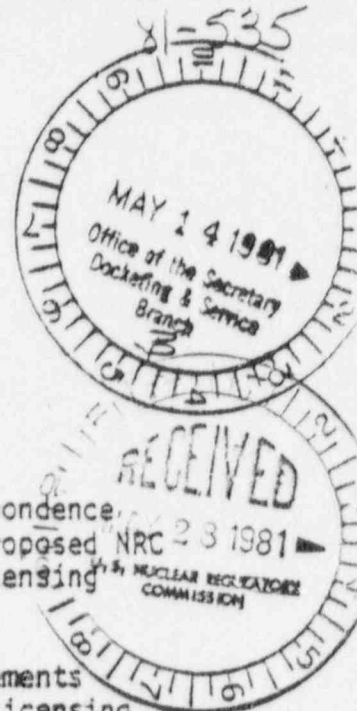
I am enclosing for your information a copy of the proposed changes to Part 2 and of the letter to Congress transmitting the proposed legislation. I hope that this information is helpful in responding to your constituent.

Sincerely,

Be Carlton Kammerer, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated

106 020 232



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, U.S.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 10, 1981

The attached communication is submitted for your consideration, and to ask that the request made therein be complied with, if possible.

If you will advise me of your action in this matter and have the letter returned to me with your reply, I will appreciate it.

Very truly yours,

John N. Erlenborn,

M.C.

2206 House Office Bldg District.

4/15, To OCA for Direct Reply..Suspense: May 5, Coy to: Gockett..31-0535

March 31, 1981

Dear Sir,

APR 8 1981

As a member of Illinois' voting community I would like to express my concern about the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's proposed regulations for speeding up the licensing of nuclear plants.

I feel that the proposed issuing of interim operating licenses before safety hearings have been completed is intolerable. The dangers involved in operating nuclear plants are great enough even when the plants have been determined "safe." To permit operation before safety hearings is inviting disaster.

Equally serious is the fact that the proposed regulations would no longer require the NRC to produce information on proposed plants to individuals involved in licensing proceedings. How can these hearings be democratic processes when the public has access to information only when the NRC chooses to allow it, and then only what the NRC chooses to release?

The public deserves to have an informed voice in a matter as serious as the licensing of a nuclear plant. Nuclear energy is controversial not with taking away the

peoples voice. It is my hope that the NRC's
proposed regulations are not allowed to go
into effect. I also hope that you see the
dangers in the regulations as clearly as
I do.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Shari Hartsing

25W738 Chieftain

Wheaton, Ill. 60187

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Shari Hartsing

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Jr.