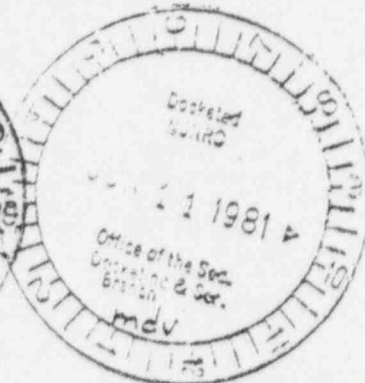
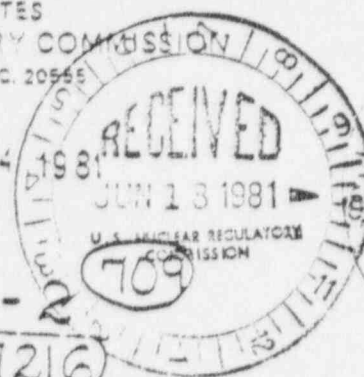




UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

BOOKLET NUMBER
PROD. & UTIL. FAS

50-289
50-275/323 JUN 4 1981



The Honorable Bill Bradley
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
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46 FR 17216

Dear Senator Bradley:

Thank you for your letter dated May 4, 1981 enclosing correspondence from your constituent Francis G. Lunden, who is concerned about proposed NRC regulations 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 were intended to permit more timely conduct of NRC hearings by tightening the time allowed for each part of the process and by providing firmer time management. The Commission received a large number of comments on this issue and is now considering alternatives to the proposed amendments. It is expected that the Commission will take further action with respect to the proposed amendments in the near future.

An updated Safety Evaluation Report for low power operation for the Diablo Canyon units was issued by the NRC staff on March 5, 1981. An Atomic Safety and Licensing Board hearing on the application for low power operation began on May 19. A decision on low power operation is expected in December 1981. A decision of the application for a full power license is projected for January 1982.

Three Mile Island Unit 1 was shut down at the time of the accident at TMI Unit 2. Following the accident, the Commission ordered that Unit 1 remain shutdown until after public hearings. Public hearings before an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board began in October 1980. A licensing board decision is now projected for October 1981. The Commission has expressed no view with respect to the restart of Unit 1, but has indicated that it would make a decision on the effectiveness of a licensing board decision authorizing restart within 35 days of the board's decision.

I hope that this information is responsive to your constituent's concerns.

Sincerely,

Carlton K. Kammere

Carlton Kammere, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

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