



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

AUG 22 1985

Docket Nos.: 50-445
and 50-446

The Honorable Lloyd Bentsen
United States Senator
961 Federal Building
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Senator Bentsen:

This is in response to your letter of July 15, 1985, to Mr. Carlton C. Kammerer, Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, requesting a status report on the Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant, and the letter of your constituents Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Bashaw who expressed concern about comments made in a newspaper article regarding the licensability of Comanche Peak.

As construction of the Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station (CPSES) Unit 1 was nearing completion, numerous concerns were raised on both design and construction of the plant. Primarily, these concerns were raised through 1) issues in contention before the NRC's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB), 2) the staff's review of technical concerns and allegations regarding design and construction of the plant which are documented in Supplemental Safety Evaluation Reports, and 3) Cygna Energy Services who performed an Independent Assessment Program of design and construction at Comanche Peak.

Following identification of these concerns, the applicants prepared and submitted to the NRC staff for review, portions of a program plan which applicants propose to implement for resolution of all existing or future issues raised by external sources (e.g. ASLB hearings, NRC, Cygna, etc.). The NRC staff has completed its initial review of the programmatic aspects of the portions of the Comanche Peak Program Plan submitted to date and finds those portions of the plan to be comprehensive in scope and to provide a structure capable of addressing existing issues and future issues identified by external sources. The plan also contains applicants' commitment to a set of self-initiated programs intended to demonstrate the adequacy of design and construction of the Comanche Peak Project. The staff's evaluation of the plan has identified certain programmatic concerns which have been forwarded to the applicants and intervenor. The staff will also be providing comments on specific issues being addressed in the plan. Following receipt of (1) plan modifications responsive to staff comments on both programmatic aspects and specific issues, (2) the remaining portions of the plan, and (3) comments from the intervenor, the staff will finalize its evaluation and findings in a Supplemental Safety Evaluation Report.

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PDR ADOCK 05000445
U PDR

The ASLB hearings have been deferred at the request of both the applicants and the staff until the applicants can appropriately respond to the outstanding technical questions on construction and design. The applicants have filed their management plan for resolution of all issues in the ASLB hearings. The intervenor and the staff have responded to the applicants' management plan. Hearings will resume on a schedule to be developed after the Board reaches a conclusion regarding the management plan and on the matters to be litigated in the hearing. The applicants' schedule indicates all plant modifications should be completed by the second quarter of 1986.

Construction of Comanche Peak Unit 2 is approximately 75% complete and the applicants expect to be completed by January 1987.

We trust that this status on the licensing of Comanche Peak will be helpful to you and your constituents. Let us know should you need further information.

Sincerely,

(Signed) William J. Dircks

William J. Dircks
Executive Director
for Operations

* SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCES
REVISED PER AO/EDO (8/19/85)

CP/TRT/DL
*AVietti-Cook/mac
08/12/85

LB#1/DL
*BJYoungblood
08/12/85

CP/TRT/DL
*CTrammell
08/13/85

CP/TRT/DL
*VSNoonan
08/13/85

D/DL
*HThompson
08/13/85

DD/NRR
*DEisenhut
08/14/85

D/NRR
*HDenton
08/17/85

EDO
WDircks
08/20/85

OCA
8/22/85

PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENCE

Green Ticket (EDO (Green) Ticket #000873

Docket File* 50-445/50-446

NRC PDR*

Local PDR*

PRC System*

NSIC*

EDO Control No. 000873

EDO Reading File

WDircks

GCunningham

DEisenhut/HDenton

AVietti-Cook

MRushbrook

LB#1 Reading File

HThompson/Marie

OELD

TNovak/Peggy

CTrammell

VNoonan

SECY (#85-632)

OCA

LMulley, P-428 (Green Ticket #000873)



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As construction of the Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station (CPSES) Unit 1 was nearing completion, numerous concerns were raised on both design and construction of the plant. Primarily, these concerns were raised through 1) issues in contention before the NRC's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB), 2) the staff's review of technical concerns and allegations regarding design and construction of the plant which are documented in Supplemental Safety Evaluation Reports, and 3) Cygna Energy Services who performed an Independent Assessment Program of design and construction at Comanche Peak.

Following identification of these concerns, the applicants prepared and submitted to the NRC staff for review, a program plan which includes resolution of all issues raised by external sources (e.g. ASLB hearings, NRC, Cygna, etc.), as well as a set of self-initiated actions. The NRC staff has completed its initial review of the programmatic aspects of the portions of the Comanche Peak Program Plan submitted to date and find those portions of the plan to be comprehensive in scope and to provide a structure capable of addressing all existing issues and any future issues identified by external sources. The plan also contains applicants' commitment to a set of self-initiated programs intended to demonstrate the adequacy of design and construction of the Comanche Peak Project. The staff's evaluation of the plan has identified certain programmatic concerns which have been forwarded to the applicants and intervenor. The staff will also be providing comments on specific issues being addressed in the plan. Following receipt of (1) plan modifications responsive to staff comments on both programmatic aspects and specific issues, (2) the remaining portions of the plan, and (3) comments from the intervenor, the staff will finalize its evaluation and findings in a Supplemental Safety Evaluation Report.

The Honorable Lloyd Bentsen

- 2 -

The ASLB hearings have been deferred at the request of both the applicants and the staff until the applicants can appropriately respond to the outstanding technical questions on construction and design. The applicants have filed their management plan for resolution of all issues in the ASLB hearings. The intervenor and the staff have responded to the applicants' management plan. Hearings will resume when the Board formally expresses its decision regarding the management plan and on the matters to be litigated in the hearing. The applicants' schedule indicates all plant modifications should be completed by the second quarter of 1986.

Construction of Comanche Peak Unit 2 is approximately 75% complete and the applicants expect to be completed by January 1987.

We trust that this status on the licensing of Comanche Peak will be helpful to you and your constituents. Let us know should you need further information.

Sincerely,

William J. Dircks
Executive Director
for Operations

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DD/NRR
DEenhut
8/14/85

D/NRR
HDeen
8/17/85

EDO
WDircks
/ /85

The Honorable Lloyd Bentsen

- 2 -

The ASLB hearings have been deferred at the request of both the applicants and the staff until the applicants can appropriately respond to the outstanding technical questions on construction and design. The staff will be ready to resume hearings when the applicants have a program in place that will be able to provide the staff with reasonable assurance that CPSES is designed and constructed adequately, and will be able to reach a licensing decision following successful implementation of this plan.

Construction of Comanche Peak Unit 2 is approximately 75% complete and the applicants expect to be completed by January 1987.

We trust that this status on the licensing of Comanche Peak will be helpful to you and your constituents. Let us know should you need further information.

Sincerely,

William J. Dircks
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SECY (#85-632)

OCA

LMulley, P-428 (Green Ticket #000873)



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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

EDO PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL

FROM:

SEN. LLOYD BENTSEN

16
DUE: 08/12/85

Date changed

EDO CONTROL: 000873

DOC DT: 07/15/85

FINAL REPLY:

TO:

KAMMERER

FOR SIGNATURE OF:

** GREEN **

SECY NO: 85-632

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DESC:

ENCLOSES ARTICLE FROM H. L. ^{BASHAW J}~~BRADSHAW~~ RE COMANCHE
PEAK AND REQUESTS AN UP-DATED STATUS REPORT ON
COMANCHE PEAK

ROUTING:

DENTON
GCUNNINGHAM

DATE: 07/29/85

ASSIGNED TO: ~~REV~~ ^{Denton} NRR CONTACT: ~~SMARTIN~~

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

REPLY TO AUSTIN, TEXAS OFFICE

NRR RECEIVED: 07/31/85
ACTION: DL, H. THOMPSON

noonarc

ROUTING: DENTON/EISENHUT
PPAS

SECY NUMBER: 85-632

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

LOGGING DATE 7/29/85

ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: Sen Lloyd Bentsen --Const Ref

AFFILIATION: H.L. Bradshaw

LETTER DATE: 7/15/85

FILE CODE _____

ADDRESSEE: OCA

SUBJECT: Encls news article re the lic of the Comanche Peak plant--req
up-dated status rpt on Com Peak

ACTION: Direct Reply...Suspense: Aug 7

DISTRIBUTION: OCA to Ack

SPECIAL HANDLING: None

SIGNATURE DATE:

FOR THE COMMISSION BAC

Rec'd Off. EDO
Date...7-29-85
Time...11:00 AM