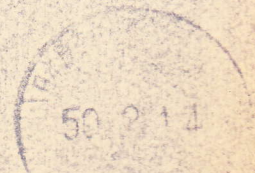


Atomic Industrial Forum

**The causes of nuclear
power plant delays**





Atomic Industrial Forum

**The causes of nuclear
power plant delays**

An AIF Staff Survey

Contents

page 1 Introduction

2 Findings

- 2 Delays confirmed
- 2 Licensing changes—most frequently reported delay factor
- 3 Other delay factors
- 3 Multiplicity of delay factors
- 3 Interrelationship of delay factors
- 6 Possible speedup
- 6 Avoiding future delays

7 Discussion

- 7 Manpower—technical
- 8 Manpower—craft labor
- 9 Materials & components
- 9 Licensing procedures
- 9 Commercial considerations
- 10 Summary observations

Introduction

In mid-November, the President requested the Forum, in a message delivered by AEC Chairman Dixy Lee Ray to the Forum's 1973 annual conference, to assist the AEC in identifying actions to be taken to expedite the completion of nuclear power plants then under construction in order to get their critically needed power on line as soon as possible.

Later that same month, an ad hoc group of Forum members recommended that as a prerequisite to developing a response the Forum should undertake a questionnaire survey of the utility sponsors of these nuclear power plants. Accordingly, in early December the Forum sent questionnaires to 47 utility owner/operators of 116 nuclear power projects, 58 of which were then under construction and 58 of which were then awaiting an AEC construction permit.

The following report is based on returns from 37 of the 47 owner/operators solicited and reflects 95 of the 116 nuclear power plants involved—47 units under construction and 48 units awaiting a construction permit.

This report is comprised of two sections, "findings" and "discussion". In the "findings" section that follows, indications of delays that have been experienced by plants under construction as well as by plants awaiting a construction permit are reported. However, a detailed breakdown of such delays is reported only for those plants under construction; such information was not requested on plants still awaiting a construction permit. Accordingly, the tabular information pertains only to plants under construction. Each of the tables presents both maximum and average delays attributable to each of the listed factors. For purposes of comparing the impact of various delays, the total plant-months of delay (average delay times the number of plants affected) is believed to be more meaningful. The subsequent "discussion" section of this report includes a summary of comments received from questionnaire respondents, presented as a qualification and amplification of the information included in the "findings" section.