

November 30, 2000

Dr. Ron Hutchings
Counselor
Embassy of Australia
1601 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Dr. Hutchings:

This is in response to your inquiry concerning any past involvement by Mr. Daniel Hirsch as an advisor or expert witness to the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). We have surveyed our official files and determined the following:

As a private citizen, Mr. Hirsch has presented testimony on nuclear matters to numerous Congressional committees, the NRC's Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS), the NRC itself, and other official agencies. The Committee to Bridge the GAP (represented by Mr. Hirsch) was an intervener in the UCLA License renewal proceeding. The NRC's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel (ASLBP) accepted him as an "Expert Witness" for the Intervener in the license amendment proceeding involving the University of Missouri Materials License. In 1985, the NRC formed a "Containment Performance Working Group" and a "Containment Loads Working Group" which issued NUREG-1037 and NUREG-1079. We cannot find anything in our records to indicate that he was a member of either Working Group or that he has served on any NRC Advisory Committee.

In summary, while Mr. Hirsch has a long history of involvement as a member of the public in various NRC and other local and national governmental actions in the nuclear area, to the best of our knowledge he has never represented the NRC in any official capacity as an advisor. His testimony as an "expert witness" was in opposition to NRC staff or licensee positions before the ASLBP. I trust this information is helpful to you. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Janice Dunn Lee
Director
Office of International Programs

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Janice Dunn Lee
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