

Hayden, Elizabeth

From: Hayden, Elizabeth
Sent: Monday, August 02, 2010 8:22 AM
To: 'Raphael James Heffron'
Subject: RE: Academic Interview

Dear Mr. Heffron,

My colleague, Scott Burnell, just informed me that you've already interviewed senior manager, David Matthews, on Friday covering the same list of questions you sent me. We don't believe that a Commissioner would have anything more to add to what Mr. Matthews told you. It would have been helpful had you informed me that you were interviewing others in the NRC. If you have any follow-up questions, please contact Mr. Burnell. Good luck on your research project.

Beth Hayden
Office of Public Affairs
301-415-8200

-----Original Message-----

From: Raphael James Heffron [mailto:heffronr@MIT.EDU]
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2010 5:37 PM
To: Hayden, Elizabeth
Subject: RE: Academic Interview

Dear Elizabeth,

Here are the two documents, sorry I got held up on a different phone call!

I look forward to hearing from you soon, and many thanks for your time,

Regards,

Raphael

From: Hayden, Elizabeth [Elizabeth.Hayden@nrc.gov]
Sent: 27 July 2010 15:46
To: Raphael James Heffron
Subject: RE: Academic Interview

Dear Mr. Heffron,

Thank you for your interest in interviewing one or two Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials about new nuclear power plants particularly with regard to Texas and Pennsylvania. I see on the internet where you have done some impressive work with regard to nuclear power.

The NRC regulates nuclear power plants so that they operate safely and people and the environment are protected. We review applications for new nuclear power plants submitted by utilities. As such, we do not get involved in State decisions about whether a nuclear plant should be built or not or whether financially they make sense. We could discuss what applications we have received, the requirements they must meet and what our experience has been in our review of those applications. As you may know, the NRC issued its last license to operate a reactor in 1996.

We have received 17 applications for 26 plants, 5 of which applicants have asked us to suspend our review. Each review we estimate will take about five years to complete including a mandatory hearing. With regard to Texas, NRG Energy submitted an application in 2007 to build 2 reactors in Bay City near where two existing reactors (South Texas Project) operate. In addition, Luminant Power submitted an application in 2008 to build 2 units near the Comanche Peak operating reactors in Glen Rose, Texas. For Pennsylvania, PPL Generation submitted an application in 2008 to build one reactor in Salem Township adjacent to the 2 (Susquehanna) operating reactors.

The U.S. Department of Energy is responsible for new reactor development policy and has recently been given \$8.3 billion by the Obama Administration to provide loan guarantees to build new plants. The NRC's business is regulation of nuclear safety for both new and existing reactors.

If you still believe that an interview would be helpful to your research, please let me know and send along the general questions you would like responses to during the interview.

Sincerely,

Beth Hayden
301-415-8202
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
-- Protecting People and the Environment

From: Raphael James Heffron [mailto:heffronr@MIT.EDU]
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2010 11:44 AM
To: NRCExecSec Resource
Subject: Academic Interview

Dear Annette L. Vietti-Cook,

My name is Raphael Heffron and I am a PhD student (visiting) at Massachusetts Institute of Technology at the Centre for Energy and Environmental Policy Research in Boston.

I am conducting research into the Lessons from new build nuclear energy focusing on Romania, the United Kingdom and the United States. Currently I am conducting my research on the United States.

My research focus is on two states with the US: Pennsylvania and Texas.

I would like to interview at least one if not two of the Commissioners in relation to nuclear energy – concerning the existence and the effects of nuclear power in the State already and the prospects for nuclear in Texas in the future. I aim to interview an extensive amount of legislators, politicians, lawyers, academics, investors, public utility companies, and others during the course of this research - those who work on energy, electricity, and nuclear in PA and TX.

The interview will take around 30 minutes and will be fully confidential. If there is to be any possible publication then your permission will be sought.

I could arrange to come to your offices if located in Washington between August 9th to August 13th. Or if located elsewhere you could let me know where yours are located. If this is not possible then I could telephone interview them for 20-30 minutes at an agreed time?

I look forward to hearing from you soon,

Yours sincerely,

Raphael J Heffron
Doctoral Student

Visiting Student
857-888-0016

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