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ALSO PRESENT:

AL ADAMS, NRC Staff

MICHAEL ANDERSON, President, Aerotest

JOCELYN LIAN, NRC Staff

DAVID SLAUGHTER, President, Nuclear Labyrinth

SPYROS TRAIFOROS, NRC Staff

P R O C E E D I N G S

11:07 a.m.

1
2
3 OPERATOR: Good morning, ladies and
4 gentlemen. My name is Kim and I'm going to be
5 assisting you on today's conference, and I was just
6 wondering who will I be turning the call over to
7 today?

8 JUDGE HAWKINS: Good morning, Kim. This
9 is Roy Hawkins. I'll be running it, and is everybody
10 on board?

11 MP I believe that we're waiting for Dr.
12 Slaughter.

13 MR. SLAUGHTER: I'm here. I'm sorry. I
14 am here.

15 JUDGE HAWKINS: Okay. All right. So as
16 far as we know, everybody that the parties want
17 listening is on board.

18 OPERATOR: Okay sir, and are you ready to
19 get going then, or did you want to wait a couple more
20 minutes?

21 JUDGE HAWKINS: No. No time like the
22 present. Let's go on the record.

23 OPERATOR: Okay sir, and then after I
24 introduce you, I will be dropping off. So if you need
25 any assistance during the call itself, just press star

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1 zero.

2 JUDGE HAWKINS: I guess first of all, I
3 want to make sure the court reporter is on.

4 COURT REPORTER: Yes, I am.

5 JUDGE HAWKINS: What's your name?

6 COURT REPORTER: Hi. I'm Cameron Sharpe.

7 JUDGE HAWKINS: All right, Cameron. Good
8 to meet you. Are you ready to go?

9 COURT REPORTER: Could I have the parties
10 introduce themselves, just to make sure I've got
11 everyone.

12 MR. SILBERG: So for the licensee and the
13 applicant it's Jay Silberg, S-I-L-B-E-R-G from the
14 Pillsbury law firm, and Michael Anderson, who's
15 president of the licensee, Aerotest is on the phone
16 and Dr. David Slaughter, president of Nuclear
17 Labyrinth is also on the phone.

18 COURT REPORTER: Could you spell Mr.
19 Slaughter's last name or Mr. Slaughter, could you
20 spell your last name?

21 MR. SILBERG: S-L-A -- go ahead Dave.

22 MR. SLAUGHTER: Slaughter. S-L-A-U-G-H-
23 T-E-R as in butcher.

24 JUDGE HAWKINS: Thank you.

25 MS. UTTAL: Representing the staff, I'm

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1 Susan Uttal, U-T-T-A-L. With me I have Jeremy
2 Wachutka, W-A-C-H-U-T-K-A, Anita Ghosh, G-H-O-S-H,
3 both from the Office of the General Counsel. I also
4 have Jocelyn Lian, L-I-A-N from the staff, Spyros
5 Traiforos, T-R --

6 MR. TRAIFOROS: A-I-F-O-R-O-S.

7 MS. UTTAL: A-I-F-O-R-O-S from the staff,
8 and Alexander Adams, A-D-A-M-S from the staff.

9 COURT REPORTER: Okay. Thank you very
10 much.

11 JUDGE HAWKINS: Gentlemen, I should say --
12 are you done? Ms. Uttal are you done?

13 MS. UTTAL: Yes.

14 JUDGE HAWKINS: All right. Roy Hawkins
15 here, Cameron. I'm joined by the Board law clerk,
16 Kathy Schroeder.

17 COURT REPORTER: Okay.

18 JUDGE HAWKINS: And by the Board
19 administrative Assistant, Karen Valloch.

20 COURT REPORTER: I think I have the
21 spellings of both their names in the assignment sheet
22 I got.

23 JUDGE HAWKINS: Great. All right. Are
24 you ready to go forward, Cameron?

25 COURT REPORTER: Yes, I am.

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1 JUDGE HAWKINS: All right. Let's go on
2 the record, please.

3 OPERATOR: Okay, sir. One moment, I'll
4 transfer you over. All of the parties will be on a
5 listen-only mode, and once again, if you need any
6 assistance during the call, just press star zero, and
7 please stand by.

8 (Music playing.)

9 OPERATOR: Welcome and thank you for
10 standing by. Participants will be on a listen-only
11 mode for today's conference, and I'd like to turn the
12 call over to Mr. Roy Hawkins. Sir, you may begin.
13 Thank you.

14 JUDGE HAWKINS: Kim, are you still there?

15 OPERATOR: Yes sir, I'm still here.

16 JUDGE HAWKINS: Before you go, you're
17 confusing me a little bit when you say "listen-only,"
18 because there's a number of people on there like Jay
19 Silberg and Susan Uttal that are --

20 OPERATOR: Oh, their lines are still open
21 sir. You have two other parties that have dialed in
22 that will be on a listen-only.

23 JUDGE HAWKINS: Thank you very much. All
24 right, thank you.

25 OPERATOR: You're welcome sir. Thank you.

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1 JUDGE HAWKINS: Good morning. My name is
2 Roy Hawkins. I'm the presiding officer in this case,
3 which is entitled Aerotest Operations, Incorporated,
4 Aerotest Radiography and Research Reactor, Docket No.
5 50-228-LT. I'm joined in ASLB spaces at the Rockville
6 headquarters by the Board's law clerk, Ms. Kathy
7 Schroeder, and by the Board's administrative
8 assistant, Ms. Karen Valloch.

9 Would counsel for the parties please
10 introduce themselves for the record, starting with
11 Aerotest and Nuclear Labyrinth.

12 MR. SILBERG: Good morning, Your Honor.
13 This is Jay Silberg. I'm a partner in the D.C. law
14 firm of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman, representing
15 Aerotest and Nuclear Labyrinth in these proceedings.
16 With me is Mr. Michael Anderson, who's president of
17 Aerotest and Dr. David Slaughter, president of Nuclear
18 Labyrinth.

19 JUDGE HAWKINS: Thank you. NRC staff?

20 MS. UTTAL: Good morning, Your Honor.
21 This is Susan Uttal, representing the NRC staff. With
22 me is Jeremy Wachutka, also representing the staff
23 and Anita Ghosh representing the staff. From the
24 staff I have Jocelyn Lian, Spyros Traiforos and
25 Alexander Adams.

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1 JUDGE HAWKINS: Thank you. In the
2 Commission's April 10th order, CLI-14-05, the
3 Commission directed a licensing board to compile a
4 hearing record in this license transfer case, to rule
5 on any motions relating to the record, to preside at
6 any oral hearing, and to certify the record to the
7 Commission.

8 As this Board indicated in its Notice of
9 Conference Call which we issued on Tuesday, the
10 purpose of this conference is fourfold. First, to
11 determine whether there will be an oral hearing.
12 Second, if there is such a hearing, whether it will be
13 near the facility or in Rockville.

14 Third, if the hearing is oral, to get the
15 parties' estimate on the number of days the hearing
16 will last; and fourth, to discuss scheduling matters.
17 Let's address those items in that order, starting with
18 whether we'll have an oral or written hearing.
19 Subpart M provides that the hearing will be oral,
20 unless the parties unanimously agree it will be in
21 writing and submit a motion to that effect.

22 So let's starting with the companies, Mr.
23 Silberg, what are your views on your preferences to a
24 hearing or a written, excuse me, an oral or a written
25 hearing?

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1 MR. SILBERG: Your Honor, our preference
2 would be for an oral hearing.

3 JUDGE HAWKINS: All right. Your
4 preference is dispositive in this case, Mr. Silberg.
5 Before moving on though, I want to give the NRC staff
6 an opportunity to represent any views they have on the
7 matter, whether they disagree, whether they concur or
8 whether they defer, or if they have no view on the
9 matter.

10 MS. UTTAL: No, we have a view.

11 JUDGE HAWKINS: Okay.

12 MS. UTTAL: Oral hearing is fine with us.

13 JUDGE HAWKINS: All right, thank you. The
14 next item, the location of the hearing. I think as
15 everybody on the line is aware, it is agency policy in
16 this type of case that if the licensee prefers to have
17 a hearing near the facility, the licensing board will
18 endeavor to accommodate that preference.

19 So again, starting with the companies, Mr.
20 Silberg, what is your view on where the location of
21 the hearing should be?

22 MR. SILBERG: Our preference again would
23 be to have the hearing in Rockville at the ASLBP's
24 hearing facilities.

25 JUDGE HAWKINS: Thank you. Ms. Uttal,

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1 what's your view on the matter?

2 MS. UTTAL: That's fine with us.

3 JUDGE HAWKINS: That is. I think that
4 will render logistics much easier. Mr. Silberg, let
5 me start with you on the third item. How many days,
6 and I know it's a bit of a crap shoot at this point to
7 make a prediction. But it will be useful in
8 determining the day of the week that we'll be
9 starting, so as not to interrupt the hearing with a
10 weekend. How many days do you anticipate the hearing
11 would be?

12 MR. SILBERG: I agree with you. It is a
13 crap shoot at this time. I think we believe that two
14 days would be right for this purpose. Hopefully, we
15 could get it done quicker.

16 JUDGE HAWKINS: I'm on board with that
17 sentiment. Ms. Uttal, do you have any different view
18 on the matter?

19 MS. UTTAL: That's as good a guess as any.

20 JUDGE HAWKINS: All right, and the last
21 item is discussing the schedule, and I'll be looking
22 forward to hearing from the parties on this. But let
23 me express some of my thoughts on it. As I see it,
24 there's two ways to formulate a schedule, the first
25 one being to establish a forward-looking schedule

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1 guided by the model milestones.

2 That provides for up to 30 days for
3 mandatory disclosure from the Commission's order, and
4 that would be about Friday, May 9th, using the 30
5 days. The guideline does say up to 12 days to issue
6 a scheduling order, which will be May 21st, and then
7 the oral hearing would commence within 45 days or
8 during the week of July 7.

9 The alternative approach would be
10 establishing a backward-looking schedule using Section
11 2.1322(b) as a starting point. That regulation
12 provides that an oral hearing should commence within
13 65 days of the order granting a hearing, unless the
14 presiding officer directs otherwise, and that would
15 actually start at three weeks earlier or the week of
16 June 16th for a hearing.

17 I should mention up front that I'm going
18 to be out of town. I have long-standing plans to be
19 out of town during the week of 16 June. I am willing
20 to endeavor to target the week of 9 June, if the
21 parties want to go that route. In my view, that may
22 be an unduly ambitious schedule to achieve.

23 It may be more realistic to consider
24 either the week of June 23rd, June 30 or July 7th, and
25 with that background, I can pull the parties on their

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1 thoughts, their views, their availability, keeping in
2 mind that any witnesses to provide either direct or
3 rebuttal testimony should be available for each day of
4 the hearing, and keep in mind as well that once a
5 hearing date is set and the scheduling order issued,
6 the Board would be disinclined to extend that schedule
7 in the absence of compelling reasons.

8 But for the companies, Mr. Silberg, do you
9 have any views at this point?

10 MR. SILBERG: I do, Your Honor. We have
11 some scheduling issues, as you yourself do. I will be
12 out of the country from July -- from June 15 through
13 July 27, and again later in July, I have a trial
14 starting July 21 for two weeks. I think --

15 JUDGE HAWKINS: I might have misunderstood
16 you, Mr. Silberg. You have a trial starting July 21?

17 MR. SILBERG: Yes, through August 1.

18 JUDGE HAWKINS: And you'll be out of the
19 country from June 15 to July 27?

20 MR. SILBERG: No, June 15 through June
21 27th, sorry.

22 JUDGE HAWKINS: The 27th, okay.

23 MR. SILBERG: Yes, necessarily out of the
24 country due to upcoming nuptials.

25 JUDGE HAWKINS: Your own, if I may

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1 inquire?

2 MR. SILBERG: No, my daughter's.

3 JUDGE HAWKINS: Oh, okay. Well
4 congratulations in any event.

5 MR. SILBERG: Thank you. Thank you very
6 much, sir. We could have the hearing at the site of
7 the nuptials if you'd like, but it might be difficult,
8 and Dr. Slaughter has some availability issues on or
9 around July 4th, plus or minus a few days. So I think
10 the weeks of June 23rd or June 30 would not work for
11 us.

12 I believe that trying to do the start at
13 June 9 is probably too tight a schedule. So we could
14 go for July 7, that week. Let me just check my
15 schedule, that precise week. I think that it is okay.

16 (Pause.)

17 MR. SILBERG: Yeah. I'm a little
18 reluctant with another trial coming up several weeks
19 thereafter, but I think we can accommodate that.

20 JUDGE HAWKINS: July 7th. That's a
21 Monday. Keep in mind, Mr. Silberg, that July 4 is the
22 Friday immediately before that. I just want you to be
23 aware for you and any witnesses, potential travel
24 issues.

25 MR. SILBERG: Right. No, I assume we

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1 would not necessarily start on Monday, and probably
2 I'd prefer not to.

3 JUDGE HAWKINS: All right. Ms. Uttal.

4 MS. UTTAL: Okay. July 7th may be doable,
5 although my witnesses -- one of my witnesses is going
6 to be out of pocket for a couple of weeks before that.
7 So preparing testimony may be a problem. The week
8 after that would be better, and I don't have one of my
9 witness' schedules yet, so I don't know for sure.

10 JUDGE HAWKINS: Mr. Silberg, let me ask
11 you. Is July -- you said you had a trial starting
12 July 21. Were the week of July 14 turn out to be the
13 best for the staff, is that a week that you could
14 accommodate?

15 MR. SILBERG: I would be hesitant to do
16 that, because I suspect we'll be deep in trial
17 preparations while the trial is in Washington, Court
18 of Federal Claims. Knowing, having done a number of
19 these trials before, they are against the United
20 States government, there's a lot of preparation that
21 final week. So I would be reluctant to take myself
22 out of circulation the week immediately before trial.

23 JUDGE HAWKINS: Ms. Uttal, it sounds like
24 you're going to -- before you can commit, though, to
25 July 7th, you're going to need to do a little bit more

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1 research, talking to your potential witnesses and
2 seeing their availability?

3 MS. UTTAL: That's correct.

4 JUDGE HAWKINS: All right. I propose
5 this, then. Why don't, Ms. Uttal, you make the
6 inquiries you need to make, and then coordinate with
7 Mr. Silberg and work together in preparing a joint
8 filing that provides a proposed schedule. If it works
9 for July 7th, it sounds like that would be best for
10 Mr. Silberg.

11 If it's impossible to do July 7, and July
12 14 and 21 are impossible for Mr. Silberg because of a
13 trial, then we may have to discuss alternative dates,
14 pushing out perhaps even to August. I think we would
15 all prefer to get it done sooner than that.

16 But how -- as I say, if you could make --
17 get together, come up with a proposed schedule not
18 only for the starting of the trial but for the
19 documents which have to be submitted pursuant to
20 2.1322 and 23, the initial written statements, the
21 written responses, the direct and rebuttal testimony
22 and supporting affidavits, proposed questions on
23 direct and rebuttal, exhibits and exhibit lists.

24 If you could work that out again, and make
25 a joint submission that way, we know it's something

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1 that you all can comply with rather than the Board
2 coming up with it and making it more difficult for
3 you. When do you think -- and I'll ask this of you,
4 Ms. Uttal. When do you think you'd be able to
5 coordinate with Mr. Silberg and have a joint filing
6 prepared and submitted?

7 MS. UTTAL: Well, I'll try to talk to him
8 later on today. I'm not in the office tomorrow, and
9 if I can't do it today, then I will talk to him on
10 Monday.

11 JUDGE HAWKINS: Okay. That's Monday the
12 28th. Do you think Monday the 5th would be a
13 reasonable goal for submitting such a filing?

14 MS. UTTAL: Sure.

15 JUDGE HAWKINS: Mr. Silberg, is that a
16 date that sounds reasonable to you for working with
17 Ms. Uttal and preparing that joint filing?

18 MR. SILBERG: It does, Your Honor.

19 JUDGE HAWKINS: All right.

20 MS. UTTAL: Judge, I have one other thing
21 I'd like to talk about.

22 JUDGE HAWKINS: Okay.

23 MS. UTTAL: I'd like to have the
24 opportunity to respond Mr. Silberg's areas of
25 controversy.

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1 JUDGE HAWKINS: All right. I'm assuming
2 that you would prefer to respond to them in writing.

3 MS. UTTAL: Yes.

4 JUDGE HAWKINS: And what would be broadly
5 the nature of your response, Ms. Uttal?

6 MS. UTTAL: Well, just basically to refute
7 what I think are incorrect statements, and things that
8 I think may be out of scope.

9 JUDGE HAWKINS: When would you anticipate
10 providing such a submission?

11 MS. UTTAL: Fifteen days.

12 JUDGE HAWKINS: That would be May 9th, by
13 our calculations. Is that consistent with your
14 calculations?

15 MS. UTTAL: Yes.

16 JUDGE HAWKINS: Mr. Silberg, do you have
17 any objection to Ms. Uttal providing a response to the
18 company's Areas of Concern?

19 MS. UTTAL: No, Your Honor.

20 JUDGE HAWKINS: All right, Ms. Uttal. We
21 will look forward to receiving on May 9th your
22 response. I noticed the companies Areas of Concern
23 were seven pages in length. Do you think you can
24 limit your response to that as well?

25 MS. UTTAL: Yes.

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1 JUDGE HAWKINS: All right. Anything else,
2 Ms. Uttal, that you'd like to discuss?

3 MS. UTTAL: No.

4 JUDGE HAWKINS: Mr. Silberg?

5 MR. SILBERG: I just wanted to alert the
6 Board, I have initiated discussions with Ms. Uttal
7 just this morning, I've been out of town the past
8 couple of days, as to whether or not the typical
9 document disclosure obligations need apply in this
10 case.

11 It's our belief that we've given the NRC
12 staff certainly everything that would be given to them
13 in document disclosure, not that I couldn't another
14 document as to how it much costs to run the reactor,
15 a purchase order for stamps and paper clips.

16 But I think they have that information.
17 We had several rounds of RAIs, as you may know, and it
18 was enough information to satisfy the staff. I
19 believe the hearing file record would be already
20 provided. So it may be that the document disclosure
21 process can be eliminated or shortened a little bit.

22 As you may know, that takes a lot of time,
23 if you do a thorough search of everybody's files, it's
24 a lot of work, particularly at the start, and if
25 that's not necessary, I would like to try to save both

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1 the staff and our clients the burden of doing that.

2 JUDGE HAWKINS: Ms. Uttal, is that
3 something you want to agree to now, or you want to
4 give some thought to and discuss it later with Mr.
5 Silberg? That could be in the joint filing where you
6 were discussing scheduling matters. You could also
7 indicate that's an agreement you reached, which
8 governs the mandatory disclosure process if you want
9 to reach an agreement.

10 MS. UTTAL: I would like to discuss it
11 with Mr. Silberg later, because I would like to
12 discuss it with the staff.

13 JUDGE HAWKINS: All right.

14 MR. SILBERG: And Your Honor, to be fair
15 to Ms. Uttal, she was not aware of this thought on my
16 behalf until this morning. So she has not -- I know
17 she has not had that opportunity yet.

18 JUDGE HAWKINS: Understood, thank you.
19 Let me just for my information, I'd be interested in
20 first Mr. Silberg. How many witnesses approximately
21 would you contemplate would be participating in the
22 hearing?

23 MR. SILBERG: On that, Your Honor, I would
24 anticipate having Dr. Slaughter and Mr. Anderson as
25 being the witnesses. I'm not sure that we need others

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1 at this point. It may turn out that there might be
2 some, but I'm not aware of them at this time.

3 JUDGE HAWKINS: All right. Ms. Uttal, how
4 many witnesses do you contemplate the staff would be
5 using?

6 MS. UTTAL: Well, at least two and maybe
7 four, Ms. Lian and Mr. Adams and possibly two more.

8 JUDGE HAWKINS: All right, thank you. At
9 this juncture, do either parties contemplate any
10 motion practice, either in the near or mid-term in
11 this case? Mr. Silberg?

12 MR. SILBERG: I do not, Your Honor.

13 MS. UTTAL: I don't anticipate any at this
14 point.

15 JUDGE HAWKINS: Thank you very much. I've
16 gotten all the information that I was hoping to get
17 from this conference call. I want to give the parties
18 one more opportunity. Do they have any questions or
19 any other issues they want to discuss? Mr. Silberg?

20 MR. SILBERG: I do not, Your Honor.

21 JUDGE HAWKINS: All right. Ms. Uttal?

22 MS. UTTAL: No.

23 JUDGE HAWKINS: All right. Thank you very
24 much. We look forward to receiving the filings in the
25 next couple of weeks.

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1 MR. SILBERG: Thank you very much sir,
2 Judge Hawkins.

3 MS. UTTAL: Thank you.

4 JUDGE HAWKINS: Thank you very much. You
5 may want to stay on for a few minutes, to see if the
6 court reporter has any questions for you.

7 MR. SILBERG: We're happy to do that.

8 JUDGE HAWKINS: Thank you. Thank you,
9 Cameron.

10 (Whereupon, at 11:29 a.m., the hearing was
11 adjourned.)

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