

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

ORIGINAL

RETURN TO SECRETARIAT RECORDS

COMMISSION MEETING

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In the Matter of: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE ON FULL-POWER  
LICENSE FOR SEQUOYAH-2  
PUBLIC MEETING

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DATE: June 9, 1981 PAGES: 1 - 19  
AT: Washington, D. C.

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE ON FULL-POWER  
LICENSE FOR SEQUOYAH-2

- - -

PUBLIC MEETING

Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Room 1130  
1717 H Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.  
Tuesday, June 9, 1981

The Commission met, pursuant to notice, at 2:15  
p.m.

BEFORE:

- JOSEPH M. HENDRIE, Chairman of the Commission
- VICTOR GILINSKY, Commissioner
- JOHN F. AHEARNE, Commissioner
- PETER A. BRADFORD, Commissioner

1 ALSO PRESENT:

- 2 SAMUEL J. CHILK, Secretary
- 3 LEO SLAGGE, General Counsel's Office
- 4 CARL STAHLE
- 5 BOB PURPLE
- 6 HAROLD DENTON
- 7 DON QUICK
- 8 ROGER MATTSON
- 9 ROBERT DEFAYETTE

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DISCLAIMER

This is an unofficial transcript of a meeting of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission held on June 9, 1981 in the Commission's offices at 1717 H Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. The meeting was open to public attendance and observation. This transcript has not been reviewed, corrected, or edited, and it may contain inaccuracies.

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## P R O C E E D I N G S:

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CHAIRMAN HENDRIE: If we can come to order. The Commission meets this afternoon for discussion and, I hope, a vote on the operating license for Sequoyah Unit 2. We met last week and got this subject started.

7

Why don't I start out by asking the staff if they have anything to tell us in addition to what they have already said last week and if so, to please tell us and then let us turn to questions about license language or whatever other subjects may interest Commissioners.

12

MR. DENTON: Mr. Chairman, in connection with the budget I had an opportunity to look back at the Sequoyah exercise and have some numbers that might be of interest.

15

We spent 17 man years of reviewer time on Sequoyah-1 and 2 and had over a hundred individuals involved in the review; three national labs; ten other consultants, and we had a total of 13 meetings with the ACRS or its subcommittees.

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COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: This is the operating license?

22

MR. DENTON: For Sequoyah-1 and 2.

23

COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: And is that just the safety review?

25

MR. DENTON: Yes. What we have done today is

1 circulate a few pages that spell out changes we would  
2 propose to make in the license for Sequoyah-2. These  
3 changes reflect the guidance from the last meeting we had  
4 with you, calls from some of your staff. They are attempts  
5 to clarify those areas which were not clear last time.  
6 There are a few areas we have extended - three or four areas  
7 - the dates to the first refueling.

8 I do not think there has been any change of  
9 substance from the license that we proposed the last time,  
10 but these revisions do attempt to clarify those issues which  
11 were troublesome previously, and we are prepared to discuss  
12 any of these that are of special interest.

13 CHAIRMAN HENDRIE: Comments, questions?

14 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: Well, I guess I would like  
15 you to briefly review these changes you made.

16 MR. DENTON: Why don't I have the project manager  
17 do that.

18 MR. STAHLER: If you turn to the copy that I passed  
19 out to you. What I have done is identify those revisions to  
20 the license that you were reviewing last week, the items  
21 identified as (16)E.

22 This is in addition to the words that are in your  
23 license. We also identified here the fact that the need for  
24 having an individual assigned from Unit 1, with prior  
25 experience in the low power test program, should be

1 completed at some convenient time.

2           So, we have added this requirement that in essence  
3 says, we will expect a report from TVA and our findings must  
4 agree that there is an acceptable level of experience and  
5 training, so that this item does not go on indefinitely as a  
6 hardship to the TVA.

7           The second item identified as (16)I here is a  
8 clarification.

9           The next three items, (16)N, O and P, simply add  
10 the dates that were omitted in the last license, consistent  
11 with the NUREG 0737.

12           The next items, (16)R and S, provide more  
13 clarification than we had before, as well as hopefully clear  
14 up the confusion.

15           COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: On (16)R, then, you are  
16 firm that unlike what the SCR says, it can meet the 82 days.

17           MR. STAHL: Yes, sir.

18           COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: The SCR is not quite right  
19 in that statement.

20           MR. STAHL: That's right. The SCR had some  
21 confusion. The paragraph that you refer to was really TVA's  
22 position - certainly not ours - and we tried to indicate  
23 that, but not quite clearly.

24           MR. DENTON: I think it is fair to say, TVA would  
25 like relaxation in a number of areas that they think are too

1 strenuous. We, in our rethinking of the problem, remembered  
2 that 0737 was a relaxation of 0660 as a result of our  
3 meeting with AIF. If we do not keep some of these dates  
4 fairly firm, we will not ever get them in.

5           It may be that, as the dates come due, we may have  
6 to provide a temporary relaxation or some compensating  
7 means. I would propose to deal with those few examples if  
8 they happen to occur.

9           COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: Fine.

10          CHAIRMAN HENDRIE: When you say under "Upgrade  
11 emergency support facilities" that we will comply with the  
12 guidance of 696, I thought we agreed to consider the TVA  
13 emergency support facilities. They were outlined in their  
14 plan, and whenever they came up here we had a briefing about  
15 it. I thought we agreed to accept that with the provision  
16 that they give us a plug-in trailer some place close to the  
17 site.

18          MR. DENTON: I think that is what the Commission  
19 did decide. Let me ask Mr. Van Niel what the specific  
20 intent of this requirement was.

21          MR. DEFAYETTE: I am not Richard Van Niel, I am  
22 Robert Defayette from the Emergency Preparedness Division.

23                On March 19th this year we sent a letter to TVA  
24 with that position. We said, "We agree with the position  
25 that you sent in before, however, here are some

1 conditions." We listed the conditions, some of which are  
2 trailers.

3 To bring you up to date on that, we received a  
4 response from TVA yesterday, proposing their eventual  
5 concept, and we really have not had a chance to look at it  
6 yet.

7 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: I think Chairman Hendrie's  
8 point is that what you can read this (16)R(3) as indicating,  
9 that what you told TVA - which would track with what the  
10 Commission decided - is no longer the case. Instead, TVA  
11 must comply with 0696.

12 MR. DEFAYETTE: I think the wording on the paper  
13 you are reading there is a little bit misleading, I agree on  
14 that. We actually have granted some relief to the strict  
15 criteria of 696; we have granted their concept.

16 MR. DENTON: Well, perhaps we ought to sharpen  
17 that by going back to this letter, to be sure it reflects  
18 the decision.

19 CHAIRMAN HENDRIE: Yes.

20 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: It probably ought to.

21 CHAIRMAN HENDRIE: If this is the language which  
22 would go into the license, then I just ask that you think  
23 whether it in fact is what you mean.

24 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: We could say, "As modified  
25 by the letter of" - whatever the date was - "that you sent

1 the letter."

2 CHAIRMAN HENDRIE: If that is the appropriate  
3 thing to say.

4 MR. STAHLER: On Item (4) we simply added the word  
5 "interim" emergency support facilities. The "S" is  
6 clarification.

7 Turning to page 3 of your handout, this is simply  
8 a clarification of the understanding of what would be  
9 included, but not necessarily limited to what would be in  
10 the R&D program.

11 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: Just asking a question,  
12 under Number (1) when you say and "Improved calculational  
13 method," what do you have in mind?

14 MR. DENTON: There was that classic code which the  
15 first time around did not include heat sinks. That is one  
16 of the areas that we have been pushing to improve.

17 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: I see Roger getting ready  
18 to stand.

19 MR. MATTSON: Well, the revised calculational take  
20 account for heat sinks and local temperature distributions  
21 inside the containment rather than a conservative bulk  
22 temperature for which one then calculates local temperatures.

23 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: But you have in mind using  
24 an improved version of classics.

25 MR. MATTSON: Yes. I believe that is due to be

1 submitted within a relatively short time. We are fairly up  
2 to date on what they are doing and how it changes the  
3 temperature, staying abreast of that, as we have told you on  
4 a couple occasions, with regard to the interim rule.

5 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: Thank you.

6 MR. STAHL: The next item, vents, previously the  
7 July date of '82. TVA propose prior to startup after first  
8 refueling. This is within the same time frame. I think  
9 this is quite acceptable and we will make that change.

10 With regards to the non-TMI items identified, the  
11 first one on masonry walls is new to the license. This is  
12 to reflect the fact that the acceptability of masonry walls  
13 was done on the basis of interim staff criteria, and  
14 modifications may be necessary based on our final staff  
15 criteria.

16 The next item on instrumentation and controls.  
17 Simply, we had a date of 18 months. We have converted over,  
18 based on TVA's request here, prior to startup after first  
19 refueling; again within the same time frame as we had before.

20 Fire protection. On the ceiling panels we had  
21 prior to acceding five percent of power. TVA's request  
22 indicated because of procurement installation, September 1  
23 is probably within a month or so of what would be the  
24 anticipated date that they would reach the five-percent  
25 power level. On that basis, that date of September is quite

1 acceptable to us.

2 MR. PURPLE: While we are on fire protection, not  
3 highlighted on this handout, but it is included in the  
4 revised license that was handed out on page 6. There are  
5 some word changes there to accomodate, I believe, comments  
6 since the last meeting.

7 The first item where it says, "TVA shall maintain  
8 in effect and fully implement all provisions," the "maintain  
9 in effect" is new from what was there last week.

10 COMMISSIONER BRADFORD: But it is the same as  
11 McGuire?

12 MR. PURPLE: I can't answer that.

13 MR. STAHLE:" Yes, it is.

14 MR. DENTON: But we would propose to add (3)L.

15 MR. PURPLE: On Item "D" we would add Item (3)L  
16 from the discussions this morning. It is not on the copy of  
17 the license you have.

18 MR. STAHLE: That completes the list of the  
19 revisions that we have made at this point.

20 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: Again just a clarification  
21 question. What is added by saying "maintain in effect" over  
22 "fully implemented?"

23 MR. DENTON: I have to turn to the author of that,  
24 if he is here.

25 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: Author, author?

1 It was not a significant question.

2 COMMISSIONER BRADFORD: If I were advising TVA on  
3 what the change meant, I think I would say that probably  
4 while "fully implement" might cover it, "maintain in effect"  
5 says not only will you do it at one point in time, but you  
6 will also keep it that way.

7 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: I would think "implement"  
8 means that. It is a trivial question.

9 CHAIRMAN HENDRIE: Other questions, John?

10 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: No.

11 CHAIRMAN HENDRIE: Peter?

12 COMMISSIONER BRADFORD: No.

13 CHAIRMAN HENDRIE: Vic?

14 COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: No.

15 CHAIRMAN HENDRIE: What do you recommend we do,  
16 Harold?

17 MR. DENTON: We find that it satisfies regulations  
18 for full power operation. They have a number of outstanding  
19 issues to clean up before they could go very far in power.  
20 Maybe I&E would like to just recount where that stands.

21 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: That is the list?

22 MR. DENTON: Yes.

23 MR. QUICK: Basically, we were looking at this  
24 list every day. We are receiving further information as far  
25 as the completed packages are concerned on each of these

1 items each day. As the completed packages are received, we  
2 are verifying that the modifications are complete and that  
3 everything is in accordance with the requirements.

4 In most cases, or in all cases for the items prior  
5 to fuel load, we have received the final reports on those  
6 deficiencies that were identified.

7 As far as the pre-operational testing and so forth  
8 is concerned, there are still some outstanding test results  
9 to be submitted and evaluated. But we have no reason to  
10 believe that there are any items on this list that TVA  
11 cannot meet by the time frames indicated.

12 COMMISSIONER GILINKSY: Well, I for myself have a  
13 feeling that they won't meet them. But given the large  
14 number of items on that list and the fact that it will be  
15 some time before they can get by the five-percent power  
16 plant anyway, I would at this point go with a low power  
17 approval.

18 MR. QUICK: I might point out that there are only  
19 two items that exist on the list that are full power  
20 conditions.

21 COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: I understand that, but I  
22 guess I would like to hear about the resolution, at least  
23 the bulk of the items on this list, before going farther.

24 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: Well, I did not see  
25 anything last week when we addressed it. I still do not see

1 any issues that are unusual in any way. So, I feel that we  
2 could go ahead and authorize the full power.

3 CHAIRMAN HENDRIE: Peter?

4 COMMISSIONER BRADFORD: I have no reason to think  
5 that we wouldn't and won't in fact authorize full power.  
6 But I prefer the two-step process, even where - as here -  
7 there does not seem to be any reason why we would not  
8 authorize full power well before the September 1 date, by  
9 which I think you would be able to use it.

10 So, I would join Victor in authorizing low power  
11 at this time and would expect to authorize full power in any  
12 case well in advance of the time it is needed.

13 CHAIRMAN HENDRIE: For myself, I don't find any  
14 reason not to clear the decks and to authorize the director  
15 of Reactor Regulation to issue a full power license when he  
16 considers it appropriate to do so for the plant.

17 Since there are two votes for low power and two  
18 votes for high power, we will not license the Sequoyah Plant  
19 this afternoon, or authorize the director to license it at  
20 full power.

21 It remains, I guess, for John and me to consider  
22 whether we are willing to go with a low power proposition in  
23 this matter.

24 Now, how long is it going to take to resolve some  
25 of these issues? Victor, are you in a position to enumerate

1 the ones which convince you that we ought not to clear this  
2 matter from the Commission's table and leave it to the staff  
3 to make the authorization at the appropriate time?

4           COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: I have not identified the  
5 points in that way, but it does seem to me there is a fairly  
6 large list and I would like to see it substantially reduced  
7 before going farther.

8           I do not think this will impinge on the operation  
9 of the plant or conduct of whatever tests remain to be  
10 done. It seems to me the prudent thing to do.

11           COMMISSIONER BRADFORD: On their schedule, remind  
12 me again, when had they planned to load fuel?

13           MR. QUICK: Sometime between June 16 and 20.

14           COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: With criticality about  
15 when?

16           MR. QUICK: I don't have an accurate date for that  
17 today, but I would expect that it would be probably the  
18 first week in July, first or second week in July.

19           MR. STAHL: In their letter to us of yesterday,  
20 TVA indicated they expected to be at five percent power by  
21 15 July, assuming they had a license.

22           COMMISSIONER BRADFORD: But by the time they had  
23 gone through the five-percent step, it would probably be  
24 mid-August before they were ready to move beyond five  
25 percent.

1           COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: Criticality comes well  
2 before the five percent. I think we would be in a position  
3 to move forward in such a way, assuming that all these  
4 things --

5           COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: You are willing to  
6 authorize five percent, is that correct?

7           COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: Yes.

8           COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: Which means that you are  
9 willing to agree to all the items prior to fuel loading,  
10 acceptable to resolution by the staff, and all the items  
11 prior to initial criticality except for those staff  
12 approved, which then leaves there only two items.

13           So, I guess what you are saying is that you are  
14 unwilling to leave those two items.

15           COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: No, that isn't the point.  
16 The point is, I would like to hear about the resolution of  
17 these other items. I don't think we have to have a meeting  
18 on it.

19           CHAIRMAN HENDRIE: But if you propose to go ahead  
20 and authorize the fuel loading criticality and low power  
21 operation which cannot take place until those items are  
22 complete, you are apparently -- I don't know how to put it.  
23 I guess you are not interested in all of those items for low  
24 power purposes. Would that be a fair way to put it?

25           COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: No. For low power

1 purposes I am prepared to go forward on this basis, yes.

2 CHAIRMAN HENDRIE: Well, once the staff allows  
3 them to put fuel into the machine, this list comes down to  
4 -- what is it, John?

5 COMMISSIONER AHEARNE: Two items, once they get  
6 criticality.

7 COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: well, it is a question of  
8 how these matters are resolved, and I would like to hear  
9 from it. I think it is a prudent and reasonable way for  
10 this Commission to proceed.

11 CHAIRMAN HENDRIE: Well, I think I must say from  
12 my side I think it is an irresponsible way for the  
13 Commission to proceed, but individual Commissioners will  
14 have to decide how they stand on the matter.

15 MR. QUICK: May I point out one thing here that  
16 may help clarify the issue? We have received final reports  
17 on 95 percent of these items that are on this list. The  
18 only thing that remains to be done is some modification work  
19 and verification that the modifications have been made in  
20 accordance with the engineering design changes that were  
21 authorized, for each one.

22 As of this time, we have no reason to believe that  
23 there are any items on this list that we would not accept  
24 the final resolution as proposed by TVA.

25 COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: Well, I don't have any

1 reason to think so, either.

2           COMMISSIONER BRADFORD: I am not taking issue with  
3 anything that you all told us, and I am not for a minute  
4 saying that I think those final two items are going to make  
5 a big difference.

6           My point is that I think we have been pretty well  
7 served by the low power-full power approach to licensing.  
8 While in this particular case, taken alone, it might not  
9 make a big difference if we did away with it and simply  
10 authorized full power now, I think it makes sense to keep  
11 that practice.

12           It is quite clear that it can be done in a way  
13 that will not delay the startup with the plant at all. It  
14 is the way that we have licensed the last four - plus maybe  
15 McGuire - plants; plus, in all likelihood, McGuire plants  
16 that we voted on this morning.

17           I just prefer that method. It has very little to  
18 do with the specific aspects of this license.

19           MR. DENTON: I guess I would be hard pressed to  
20 find on this list any really unique items. They seem to be  
21 the types of items that were resolved on Unit 1.

22           COMMISSIONER BRADFORD: I am not disagreeing with  
23 that, Harold. As I say, I am not saying that I think we  
24 will be holding up the operation at all. We are clearly  
25 prepared to authorize the fuel load and low power testing

1 before they need it, and full power, in all likelihood, well  
2 before they need it.

3 CHAIRMAN HENDRIE: Further comments?

4 Well, the Commission is unable to agree and we  
5 will simply have to take under further advisement the matter  
6 of the Sequoyah operating license. When it appears that I  
7 can reasonably schedule another meeting to take the matter  
8 up, we will let you all know.

9 COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: Why do you hesitate to go  
10 forward with the five percent?

11 CHAIRMAN HENDRIE: Because it seems to me  
12 irresponsible for the Commission not to get on with the  
13 licensing of this plant. It is getting very close to ready  
14 to go. All but two of the items which would be required for  
15 full power must in fact be resolved before fuel loading and  
16 before low power operation.

17 COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: It seems to me it is the  
18 opposite of irresponsible.

19 CHAIRMAN HENDRIE: I am unwilling to take the view  
20 that the Commission has to sit upon each phase of the  
21 operation of each of these plants in turn.

22 I think if you are willing to deal with the  
23 Sequoyah license, that is fine. But I think in this case  
24 the low power authorization simply is the wrong thing to do,  
25 and it seems to me that we are going to have to consider

1 what we ought to do from here and how we ought to find a way  
2 to resolve the current roadblock.

3           COMMISSIONER GILINSKY: Well, you are putting  
4 yourself in the position of blocking further motion on this  
5 plant.

6           CHAIRMAN HENDRIE: No, on the contrary. I am  
7 putting myself in the position of saying that it is time for  
8 this Commission to take a responsible action which the staff  
9 recommends to it, which logic calls for; for which there are  
10 no very good reasons at all not to do it.

11           What I find is that your preference is to hold back  
12 and to try to staff out at this five-percent point. I do  
13 not find it very useful in this case. I think it is  
14 appropriate that we have some internal discussions about the  
15 matter. I think before anything further can be laid out  
16 here, we are going to have to have those discussions.

17           So, I see no purpose in continuing the meeting.  
18 Thank you.

19           (Whereupon, at 2:40 p.m. the meeting of the  
20 Commission was adjourned.)

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

This is to certify that the attached proceedings before the  
COMMISSION MEETING

in the matter of: Discussion and Possible Vote on Full-Power License  
for Sequoyah-2

Date of Proceeding: June 9, 1981

Docket Number:

Place of Proceeding: Washington, D. C.

were held as herein appears, and that this is the original transcript  
thereof for the file of the Commission.

M. E. Hansen

Official Reporter (Typed)

*M. E. Hansen*

Official Reporter (Signature)