

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Docket No. 50-387

In the matter of

Pennsylvania Power and Light Company, et. al.

Susquehanna Nuclear Generating Station, Units I and II

PETITION FOR INTERVENTION

The Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power, an unincorporated organization of individuals and groups of individuals, on behalf of its members do hereby petition the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for leave to intervene in this proceeding. The authority for this request is granted in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, Part 2.714 of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, and decisions 73-1776, 73-1867, 74-1385, and 74-1586 of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

1. The Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power is a non-profit, public interest organization composed of individuals and groups of individuals who share a concern about the purpose, magnitude, and direction of the civilian nuclear power program. Members of the Coalition live in the vicinity of Susquehanna, Units I and II. The names of the co-executive directors, the authorized representative of the Coalition before the Commission, and five members who live within approximately 20 miles of Susquehanna I and II are listed below.

1. Judith H. Johnsrud
433 Orlando Drive, State College, Pennsylvania
2. George L. Boomsma
R.D. 1, Peach Bottom, Pennsylvania

3. Chauncy Kepford, Authorized Representative before the Commission
2576 Broad Street, York, Pennsylvania
4. Irene Lemanowicz
R.D. Berwick, PA 18603
5. Dorothy Endrizzi
Box 76 R.D. 1, Sugarloaf, PA 18249
6. Hazel Miles
R.D. 1, Berwick, PA 18603
7. John Fletcher
919 Roslyn Drive, Berwick, PA 18603
8. Carol Fraind
R.D. 1, Berwick, PA 18603

The members who live in the neighborhood of Susquehanna Units I and II feel that the operation of this facility poses an undue threat to their lives and material possessions. Due to the recent decisions of the United States Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit, 73-1776, 73-1867, 74-1385, and 74-1586, these members, and the Coalition as a whole, feel the continued operation of Susquehanna I and II is illegal because the construction permit for the facility was issued without proper consideration of the "alternative" of energy conservation, with its effect on the cost-benefit analysis, and without proper consideration of the yet unsolved, and possibly unsolvable, problem of radioactive waste disposal. This petition is based on the contention that there are defects in the cost-benefit analysis used by the Applicant to justify construction of Susquehanna Units I and II and approved by the Commission.

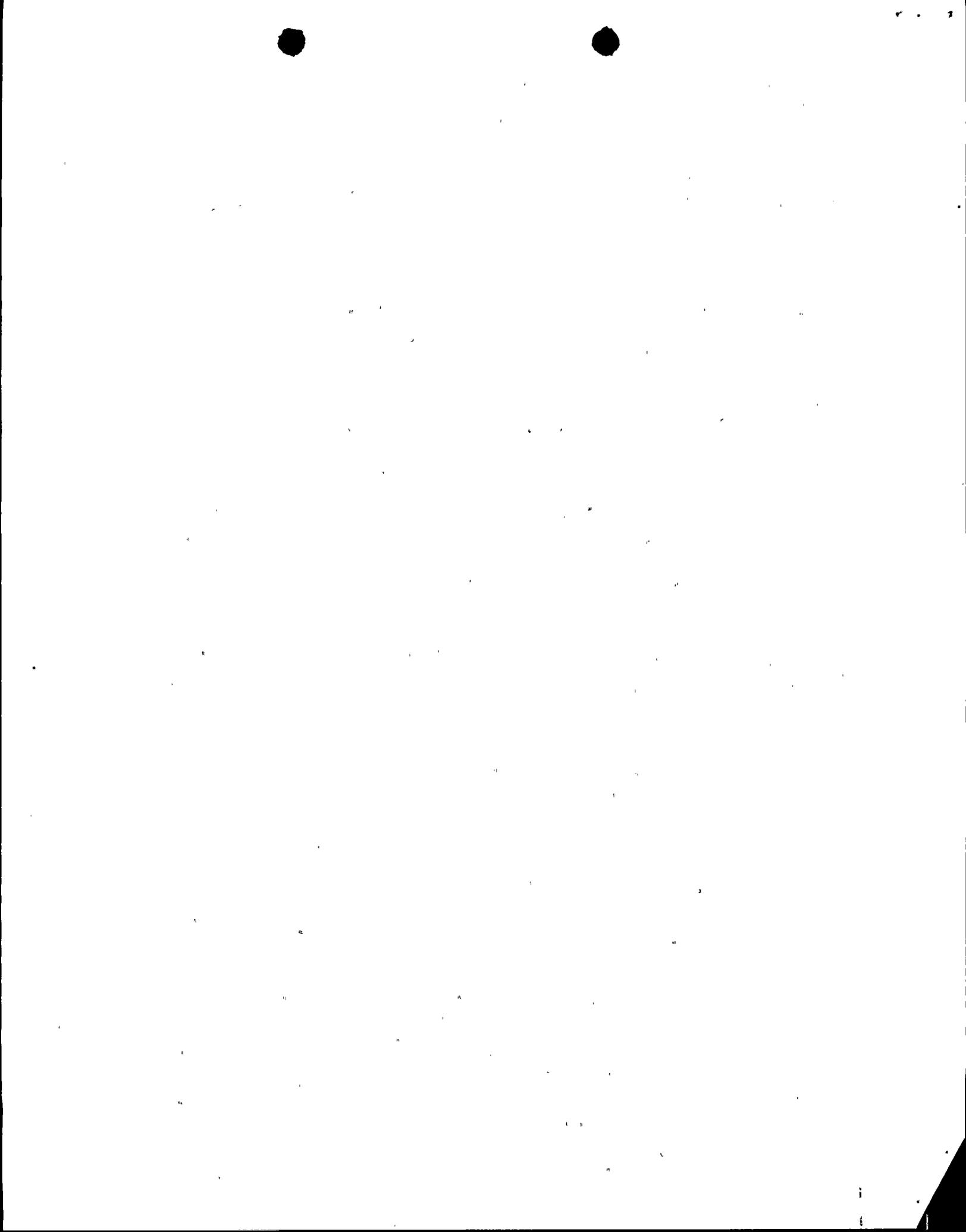
2. The Petitioners (the Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power and its members) contend that the cost-benefit analysis of the Applicant and the Commission is faulty because the recipients of the "costs" and "benefits" have not been properly identified. It is claimed that the sale of electricity by the Applicant constitutes the primary benefit of the facility, with the customers receiving the benefit and, therefore, being the beneficiaries of the plant.



No reading of a dictionary definition of either "benefit" or "beneficiary" can produce such a meaning as applied by the applicant or the Commission. The true beneficiaries of a nuclear power plant are stockholders who receive profits (if any) due to the plant's operation. Thus, the only true benefits from the operation of a nuclear power plant are the dividends paid out by a utility as a result of the operation of the power plant. Furthermore, the "costs" are underestimated by the refusal of the Applicant and the Commission to determine the actual radiation doses delivered to real people from the entire fuel cycle.

3. Petitioners contend that the stated costs of nuclear power by the Applicant and the Commission assume catastrophic accident-free operation of nuclear power plants. Such an assumption is at odds with the revised conclusions of "The Reactor Safety Study," WASH-1400, better known as the Rasmussen Report, and with Section 170(b) of the Atomic Energy Act. The U.S. Congress, with the passage of the 1975 amendments to the Price-Anderson Act, has acknowledged that there may be more than one nuclear accident requiring payments under the Price-Anderson Act in one year. Cost-benefit analysis of nuclear power plants should include the costs of accidents.

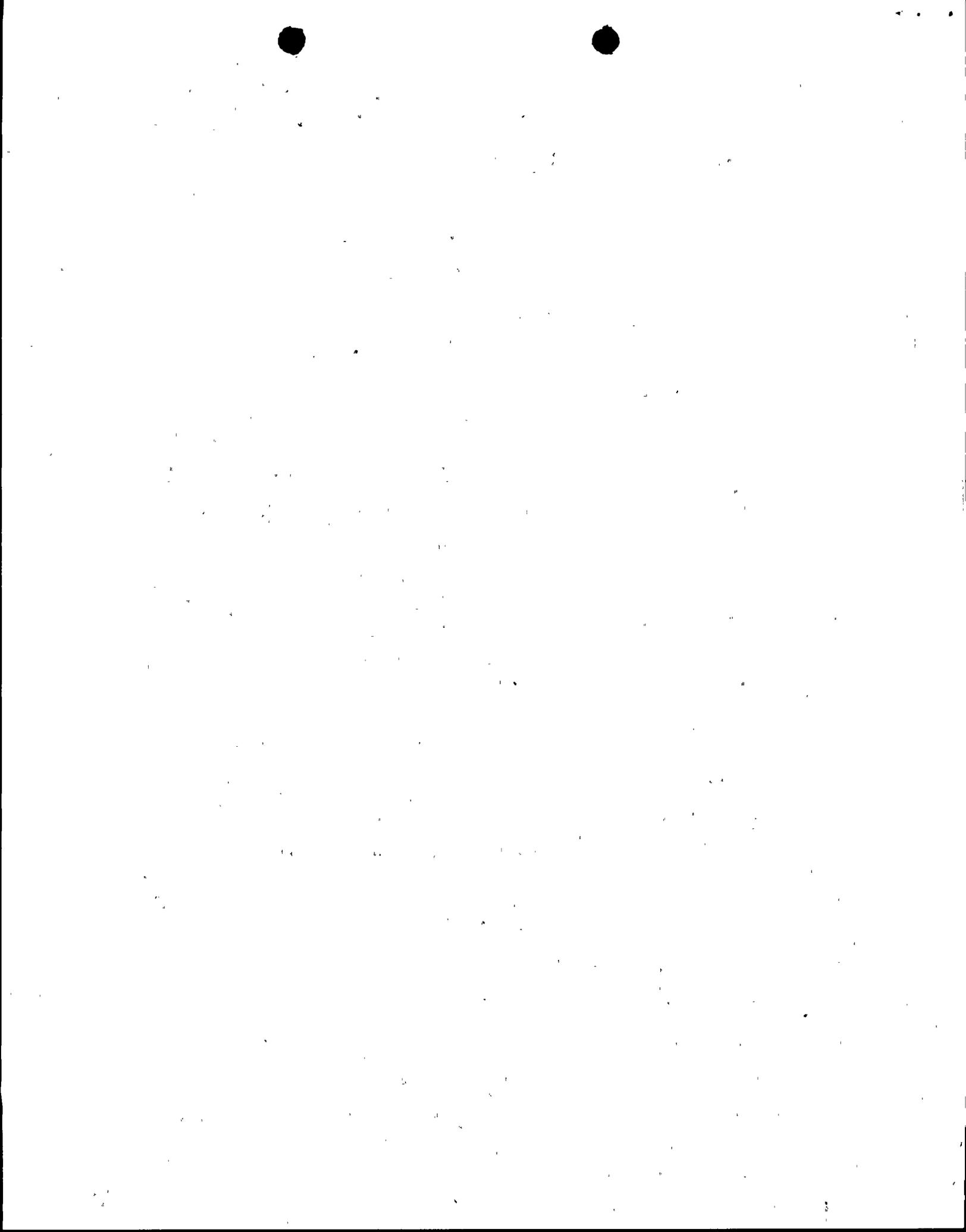
4. Petitioners contend that the cost-benefit analysis of the Applicant and the Commission assumes a virtually infinite supply of relatively low cost "yellow cake," or U_3O_8 . In reality, the United States is now grossly over-committed as far as the "known" and "estimated" reserves of the U_3O_8 are concerned. The fuel requirements for the 238 nuclear reactors operable, being built, or planned (ERDA News Release, July 28, 1976), with a capacity of 237,000 MW(e) will require 1,159,000 tons of U_3O_8 for their 30-year lifetimes at a 0.55 capacity factor. The total estimated reserves of U_3O_8 are 640,000 tons of mineable U_3O_8 . (ERDA News Release, April 2, 1976).



Neither the Applicant nor the Commission has yet faced the problem of either very high U_3O_8 prices -- as \$100 to \$1,000 per pound of U_3O_8 -- or a simple unavailability of U_3O_8 . Nor has the enormous environmental impact, net energy cost, and dollar cost of mining low grade coals, shales, granites, or even sea water for uranium been acknowledged by the Commission or the Applicant. Petitioners contend that availability of fuel and energy and environmental costs of its extraction are an integral part of the nuclear fuel cycle and therefore must be included in a full and proper cost-benefit analysis of this reactor.

5. The Petitioners contend that the rate structure of the Applicant is a promotional rate structure designed to increase the consumption of electricity by offering declining rates for increased consumption. Such a rate structure minimizes the possibility and practicality of worthwhile energy conservation efforts. Petitioners contend that a flat rate structure -- one price for all levels of consumption and for all customers -- or a declining block rate structure would make conservation a viable and practical alternative to Susquehanna Nuclear Generating Station, Units I and II.

6. The Petitioners contend that the Commission has been totally negligent in its handling of the problem of radioactive wastes in the granting of a construction permit for Susquehanna I and II. As a result, it has been impossible to determine accurately the costs of electricity generated by nuclear plants because the costs of solidification of spent fuel reprocessing waste solutions and storage of solidified wastes were ignored or grossly underestimated. Estimates of the costs of solidifying and disposing of wastes from the Nuclear Fuel Services range from a low of \$67,000 per year per 1000 MW(e) plant to \$36,000,000 per year per 1000 MW(e) plant. (See "Alternative Processes for Managing Existing Commercial High-Level Radioactive Wastes," NUREG-0043) While the \$67,000 figure may represent an insignificant addition to the annual



reactor operation costs, the \$36,000,000 could easily double the annual operating costs. If past experience for estimating costs by the AEC/NRC can serve as a guide, the high figure may prove to be the low. Such costs should be included in the cost-benefit analysis.

7. Petitioners contend that the cost-benefit analysis of Susquehanna I, II has been biased in favor of nuclear power by greatly underestimating spent fuel reprocessing costs and by the Commission offering a credit for recovered plutonium. Since there has not yet been any successful, economical, and complete reprocessing of reactor wastes to the solid stage, costs must be largely unknown. Since the recycling of plutonium is not presently a commercial reality, the offering of a plutonium credit for yet unrecovered plutonium which may not be recycled is premature.

8. Petitioners therefore contend that, due to the above unresolved issues regarding compliance with Sec. 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act by the Commission, the construction permit for Susquehanna, Units I and II should be rescinded immediately, and construction halted pending resumption of public hearings and resolution of these matters.

9. Petitioners further request the Commission to grant financial assistance to the intervenors under the authority of Sec. 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act. Petitioners have made similar requests in the past, and have met with only denial or delay. Petitioners call the attention of the Commission to the recent court decision, York Committee for a Safe Environment, et al., vs. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, No. 74-1923, and the comments therein regarding public interest litigants. Petitioners request the amount necessary in order to meet legal, technical, and procedural expenses otherwise not available.