UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

10/24/79

BEFORE THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD

In the Matter of
METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY,
ET AL.

(Three Mile Island, Unit 1)

Docket No. 50-289



NRC STAFF RESPONSE TO OCTOBER 5, 1979 ANGRY MOTION

INTRODUCTION

On October 5, 1979, the Anti-Nuclear Group Representing York filed a Motion which contains three requests: (1) that the Board certify to the Commission "the question of the appropriateness of financial assistance to all intervenors regardless of the issues they may seek to raise"; (2) that the Board issue a "compulsive and explicit Order defining the parameters of the present proceedings", including the question of whether the Board has the authority to make findings regarding whether the Operating License for this facility should be revoked; and (3) that the Board grant relief from the "numerical filing requirements of 10 C.F.R. §2.708(d)".

For the reasons stated herein, we oppose the first request, argue that the second request is, in part, unnecessary and, in part, inadequately supported, and note that the third request has, in effect, been granted by the Board's Order of October 15, 1979. We explain our reasoning below.

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ARGUMENT

In denying several requests that the Board grant or require an investigation into the granting of funding for participants on all issues in this proceeding, the Board cited the Commission's "Statement of Considerations Terminating Rulemaking" determining not to undertake an intervenor funding program (CLI-76-23; 4 NRC 494, 504-06) and observed that the Commission's express identification of the possible future consideration of such funding on issues of psychological distress indicates a decision not to consider general financial assistance to intervenors. Board Memorandum and Order, October 15, 1979, p. 7. This reasoning also supports a decision not to certify the question to the Commission now, since it raises a question already addressed by the Commission, both as a general policy matter and in the context of fashioning its Order and Notice of Hearing (August 9, 1979) in this proceeding.

Accordingly, ANGRY's request should be denied.

ANGRY's second request relates to the scope of the proceeding. Insofar as it is a request for an Order "defining the parameters of the present proceedings", we expect that the Board will, in due course, issue such an Order. ANGRY apparently believes that such a Board Order should address the question of whether the Board's jurisdiction in this proceeding extends to the authority to make findings, pursuant to 10 C.F.R. §50.100, whether the Operating License for Unit 1 should be revoked. If ANGRY wishes to argue that this issue is within the scope of this proceeding, it has the burden of "stating with particularity the grounds" for any motion (or contention) regarding this issue. 10 C.F.R. §2.714(b) and §2.730(b).

The Board's ruling on a request by CEA similar to ANGRY's request for exemption from the numerical filing requirements of 10 C.F.R. §2.708(d) provides that the Board will "explore means by which a reliable and affordable system of duplication of papers, filing, and other communication methods can be established" Memorandum and Order of October 15, 1979 at 8. Discussion of this matter at the special prehearing conference appears to be designed to provide means whereby the exemption ANGRY seeks may be effectively granted.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, we argue that none of the requests contained in the Motion filed by ANGRY on October 5, 1979 warrant any additional action by the Board at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia E. Mulkey Counsel for NRC Staff

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland this 24th day of October, 1979.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of "NRC STAFF RESPONSE TO OCTOBER 5, 1979 ANGRY MOTION" in the above-captioned proceeding have been served on the following by deposit in the United States mail, first class or, as indicated by an asterisk, through deposit in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's internal mail system, this 24th day of October, 1979.

* Ivan W. Smith, Esq.
Atomic Safety & Licensing and Panel
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dr. Walter H. Jordan 881 W. Outer Drive Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

Dr. Linda W. Little 5000 Hermitage Drive Raleigh, North Carolina 27612

George F. Trowbridge, Esq. Shaw, Pittman, Potts & Trowbridge 1800 M Street, N.W. Washington, D. C. 20006

Karin W. Carter, Esq. 505 Executive House P. O. Box 2357 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Honorable Mark Cohen 512 E-3 Main Capital Building Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120 Ellyn Weiss, Esq. Sheldon, Harmon, Roisman & Weiss 1725 I Street, N.W. Suite 506 Washington, D.C. 20006

Mr. Steven C. Sholly 304 South Market Street Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17055

Mr. Thomas Gerusky Bureau of Radiation Protection Department of Environmental Resources P.O. Box 2063 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Mr. Marvin I. Lewis 6504 Bradford Terrace Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19149

Metropolitan Edison Company Attn: J. G. Herbein, Vice President P.O. Box 542 Reading, Pennsylvania 19603

Ms. Jane Lee R.D. 3; Box 3521 Etters, Pennsylvania 17319 Walter W. Cohen, Consumer Advocate Department of Justice Strawberry Square, 14th Floor Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17127

Robert L. Knupp, Esq.
Assistant Solicitor
Knupp and Andrews
P.O. Box P
407 N. Front Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17108

John E. Minnich, Chairman Dauphin Co. Board of Commissioners Dauphin County Courthouse Front and Market Sts. Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101

- * Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, D. C. 20555
- Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, D. C. 20555
- Docketing and Service Section
 U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
 Washington, D. C. 20555

Robert Q. Pollard Chesapeak Energy Alliance 609 Montpelier Street Baltimore, Maryland 21218

Chauncey Kepford Judith H. Johnsrud Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power 433 Orlando Avenue State College, Pennsylvania 16801

Ms. Frieda Berryhill, Chairman Coalition for Nuclear Power Plant Postponement 2610 Grendon Drive Wilmington, Delaware 19808 Holly S. Keck Anti-Nuclear Group Representing York 245 W. Philadelphia Street York, Pennsylvania 17404

John Levin, Esq. Pennsylvania Public Utilities Comm. Box 3265 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Jordan D. Cunningham, Esq. Fox, Farr and Cunningham 2320 North 2nd Street Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110

Theodore A. Adler, esq. Widoff Reager Selkowitz & Adler Post Office Box 1547 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105

Ms. Marjorie M. Aamodt R.D. #5 Coatesville, Pennsylvania 19320

Ms. Karen Sheldon Sheldon, Harmon, Roisman & Weiss 1725 I Street, N. W. Suite 506 Washington, D. C. 20006

Earl B. Hoffman
Dauphin County Commissioner
Dauphin County Courthouse
Front and Market Streets
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101

Marcia E. Mulkey
Counsel for NRC Staff

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