

TEXAS UTILITIES SERVICES INC.

2001 BRYAN TOWER · DALLAS, TEXAS 75201

July 27, 1979

~~Mr. S. B. Burwell~~  
Light Water Reactors Branch No. 2  
Division of Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

SUBJECT: COMANCHE PEAK STEAM ELECTRIC STATION  
GEOLOGIC INFORMATION  
NRC QUESTIONS 361.17 AND 361.25  
DOCKET NOS. 50-445 AND 50-446

Dear Mr. Burwell:

A copy of the Dames & Moore letter dated April 23, 1979, which documents telephone conversations with the U. S. Geological Survey regarding the non-subsidence potential of the Cretaceous sandstone, is attached.

*C.K. Feist*  
C. K. Feist

CKF:skf  
Attachment

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*BS*

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bcc:

H. C. Schmidt  
R. J. Gary - 2c  
D. N. Chapman  
J. C. Kuykendall  
J. T. Merritt  
N. S. Reynolds  
ARMS

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April 23, 1979

DMT 422

Job No. 4486-028-12

TUSI  
 NUCLEAR DIV.

Texas Utilities Generating Company  
 2001 Bryan Tower  
 Dallas, Texas 75201

Attention: Mr. Robert W. Caudle  
 Project Manager - Nuclear Plants

Gentlemen:

FSAR Question 361.4  
 Subsidence Potential in  
 Cretaceous Sandstone  
 Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station  
 For Texas Utilities Generating Company

In Question 361.4, the NRC asked us to provide copies of the communications with A. Winslow and J. Montgomery of the U.S. Geological Survey regarding the non-subsidence potential of Cretaceous sandstone (FSAR p.2.5.38).

The appropriate portion of the FSAR text is quoted below:

"Sedimentary strata under the site are indurated or semi-indurated. The semi-indurated strata are composed of poorly graded granular materials which are not subject to change in volume upon dewatering. The United States Geological Survey in Austin, Texas, reports that subsidence of Cretaceous sandstones in the site vicinity has never been observed and is highly unlikely to ever occur (Al Winslow, personal communication). The United States Geological Survey in Forth Worth, Texas, also has no knowledge of subsidence in Cretaceous sandstone in the site vicinity (John Montgomery, personal communication)."

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Dames & Moore was unable to find the original telecommunications (circa 1970). On April 19, 1979 we called Mr. A. Winslow and Mr. J. Montgomery to ascertain if what was said in the FSAR are still valid. Their responses are summarized below:

- 1) Mr. Allen G. Winslow  
U.S. Water Resources Division  
Federal Building  
300 E. Eight Street  
Austin, Texas 78701 (512) 297-5766

After providing Mr. Winslow with the background information and reading the above portion of the FSAR, he said that to his knowledge there was no evidence of subsidence related to ground water withdrawal in the Cretaceous sandstones. Furthermore, based on his knowledge of the geology and hydrology of these strata he would not expect any. These strata have experienced heavy ground water withdrawal in the Dallas-Forth Worth area with no reported adverse effects. He added that the aquifers are deeper in that area than in the vicinity of CPSES. Mr. Winslow concluded that he thought what was stated in the FSAR was still valid.

- 2) Mr. John Montgomery  
Retired from USGS  
Presently with Freese and Nichols  
811 Lamar  
Forth Worth, Texas 76102 (817) 336-7161

After providing Mr. Montgomery with the background information, he said that he vaguely remembers the discussion. He added that he is a hydrologist and at the time he had checked with Mr. Winslow who is a geologist/hydrologist before making a statement. Any statement Mr. Montgomery made would have echoed Mr. Winslow's.

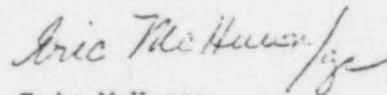
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Should you have any questions concerning these telecommunications,  
please contact us.

Yours very truly,

DAMES & MOORE



Eric McHuron  
Project Geologist

EJM:gc  
(Three copies submitted)

cc: Mr. Charles Oliver - D&M - HS  
Mr. Allen Winslow - USGS  
Mr. John Montgomery - Freese & Nichols