

ALERA-DE RA
TE. RA



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

JUN 2 1979

Docket Nos. STN 50-568
and STN 50-569

Dr. Samuel Seeley, President
Mr. George F. Bliven, Jr., Director
Concerned Citizens of Rhode Island
Box 525
Charlestown, Rhode Island 02813

Gentlemen:

Thank you for your letter of May 25, 1979 addressed to Chairman Hendrie regarding the proposed New England Plant. Since the licensing process involves an adjudicatory hearing which might be subject to review by the Chairman and the Commissioners, it would be inappropriate for Chairman Hendrie to personally reply to you. For this reason, your letter has been referred to me for response.

In your letter you object to two paragraphs in the NRC staff site visit report dated January 3, 1974:

"The site visit was also attended by the President, Mr. P. Gibbons, and Vice-President, Mr. C. R. McLean of the local town council. They both agreed that the local residents (permanent as opposed to transient) during a recent meeting had voiced no objections to a nuclear plant being placed on the old air base and would like to see the necessary studies initiated..."

"At a meeting with Governor Noel in the afternoon the local authorities assured the Governor that it was the desire of the residents to proceed with the detailed studies of the site..."

These paragraphs reflect to the best of our knowledge what NRC representatives heard at the site visit and related meeting with the Governor. In any case, the site visit and related meetings were preliminary information meetings and did not bias the licensing process.

The Draft Environmental Statement (DES) related to construction of NEP 1 & 2, NUREG-0529, represents the staff's preliminary environmental analysis of the proposed plant. Section 2.9 of this document is a discussion of public attitudes toward the proposed project. All comments we receive on the DES will be responded to in the Final Environmental Statement.

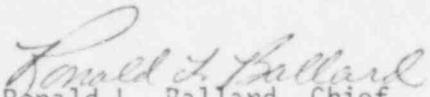
446 132

④
7908020320

JUN 22 1979

Your letter of May 25 has been placed in our official files.

Sincerely,


Ronald L. Ballard, Chief
Environmental Projects Branch 1
Division of Site Safety
and Environmental Analysis

446 133

Concerned Citizens of Rhode Island

Box 525
Charlestown, R.I. 02813

May 25, 1979

Dr. Joseph M. Hendrie, Chairman
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545

Dear Dr. Hendrie:

We call your attention to the Atomic Energy Commission report on the "Site Visit to the Naval Air Facility" from D. E. Sells to the Assistant Director of Environmental Projects, dated January 3, 1974. Two very serious errors are contained in the following excerpted paragraphs:

"The site visit was also attended by the President, Mr. P. Gibbons and Vice-President, Mr. C. R. McLean of the local town council. They both agreed that the local residents (permanent as opposed to transient) during a recent meeting had voiced no objection to a nuclear plant being placed on the old air base and would like to see the necessary studies initiated..."

"At a meeting with Governor Noel in the afternoon the local authorities assured the Governor that it was the desire of the residents to proceed with the detailed studies of the site..."

In the first cited paragraph, reference by McLean and Gibbons to the local residents having "no objection to a nuclear plant being placed on the old air base", we believe that these town officials had no basis for giving these assurances about the views of the townspeople.

In the second paragraph, reference by McLean and Gibbons to Governor Noel that "it was the desire of the residents to proceed with detailed studies of the site", also appears to be a serious misrepresentation of the feeling of the town's residents.

We find that no town meetings were held to determine specifically the attitude of the voters of the town. Other than a promotional presentation by the Narragansett Electric Co., no informational meetings were held in the town that would help the citizens determine their course of action. When a 1974 mail questionnaire from the new Town Council under Gilbert Mook showed a 5 to 3 vote against a nuclear plant on the site, Mook then conducted an official referendum to determine the attitude of all voters of the town. They again rejected a nuclear plant on the site, despite an extremely intensive door-to-door propaganda campaign by the power company.

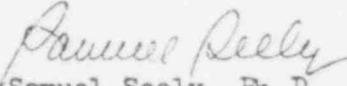
Since it is our understanding that NRC tries to avoid placing nuclear plant facilities in areas where they are not welcome, we request that your records be changed: (1) to show that a majority of the people of the town of Charlestown

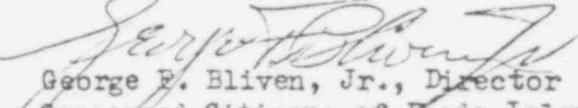
~~W. R. ...~~
~~...~~
3/Muller
Action
include
doctors

W. R. ...
ACTION
Note

had voted against this nuclear plant proposal, (2) to show that there appeared to be, at the very beginning, majority opposition to the nuclear plant proposal for the old Navy airbase in Charlestown, and (3) to strike the original invalid statements by McLean and Gibbons from the record.

Very truly yours,


Samuel Seely, Ph.D., President


George F. Bliven, Jr., Director
Concerned Citizens of Rhode Island

SS/s

cc: C. A. Lee, Jr., GSA