

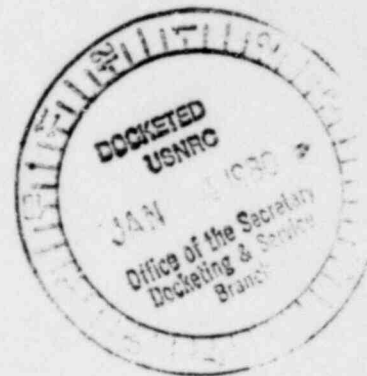
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December 27, 1979

Mr. L. Dow Davis  
Office of the Executive Legal Director  
United States Nuclear Regulatory  
Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555



Re: Black Fox Station  
Dockets No. STN 50-556 and 50-557

Concrete Fill in Excavation

Dear Dow:

I have received and reviewed several letters, reports, etc., concerning the necessity for a concrete fill as the result of certain siltstone encountered in the excavation for Unit 2.

The reports indicate that PSO has performed analyses for a concrete thickness of both 9.25 and 29.25 ft. This indicates to me that there may be some uncertainty about the depth of the siltstone formation. In this respect, I have the following questions:

1. How deep does the soft siltstone formation go?
2. How has the depth been determined?
3. Has core drilling been done to show that another siltstone layer does not exist somewhat below the one in question?

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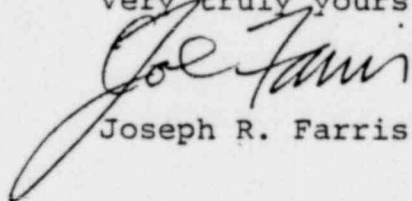
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Further, since it has now been almost a year since the last hearings, substantial work has no doubt been done regarding confirmation of load definitions of the containment loads, SRV loadings, and the associated responses (see Intervenor's Proposed Finding of Fact, pp.46-50 for work still underway). Is it settled that the addition of this concrete fill would not affect the calculated load responses -- i.e., do you understand it to be PSO's position that the load responses associated with a concrete base will be the same as if whatever PSO thought underlay the Unit 2 site was there?

Since additional hearings are apparently in the offing, what would be the Staff's position regarding some discussion of this issue in addition to the TMI issues?

Very truly yours,



Joseph R. Farris

JRF/se

cc: Black Fox Mailing List

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