

February 16, 1979

Sheldon J. Wolfe, Esq., Chairman
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

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Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

In the Matter of
Houston Lighting & Power Company
(Allens Creek Nuclear Generating Station, Unit 1)
Docket No. 50-466

Gentlemen:

Enclosed are copies of the Department of Energy's (DOE) comments with regard to the Staff's Final Supplement to the Final Environmental Statement (NUREG-0470) in the captioned proceeding. Since DOE's comments were not filed with the Staff until December 8, 1978, they could not be included in the Final Supplement.

Sincerely,

Stephen M. Sohinki
Counsel for NRC Staff

Enclosure: As Stated

cc: (w/enclosure)
R. Gordon Gooch, Esq.
J. Gregory Copeland, Esq.
Jack Newman, Esq.
Richard Lowarre, Esq.
Hon. Jerry Sliva
Hon. John R. Mikeska
Brenda A. McCorkle

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Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20461

DECEMBER 8, 1978

Mr. George W. Knighton, Chief
Environmental Projects Branch 1
Division of Site Safety and
Environmental Analysis
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20535

Dear Mr. Knighton:

This is the Economic Regulatory Administration's (ERA) response to your letter of February 24, 1978, to Mr. William Lindsay of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, requesting comments on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Draft Supplement to the Final Environmental Statement (FES) related to the proposed issuance of a construction permit to the Houston Lighting and Power Company (HLP) (Applicant) for the construction of the Allens Creek Nuclear Generating Unit No. 1 (Docket No. 50-466).

Mr. Lindsay has requested that the staff of the Economic Regulatory Administration (ERA) provide comments on the need-for-power section of the Draft Supplement. Consequently, these comments are forwarded on behalf of the Department of Energy's Assistant Administrator for Utility Systems, ERA. The analysis was developed by the staff of the Power Supply Planning Branch, Division of Power Supply and Reliability, Office of Utility Systems. Our comments are in compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and the August 1, 1973 Guidelines of the Council on Environmental Quality; they are directed to the need for capacity represented by the Allens Creek project, and to related bulk power supply matters concerning system reliability.

In addition, because of DOE's national responsibilities to effect an absolute, overall reduction in the use of natural gas and oil to generate electricity, the fuel consumption implications of the HLP generating system have also been calculated. All future comments from the DOE regarding a test of need for power for all Environmental Impact Statements will include a forecast and evaluation regarding the effectiveness with which the applicant is reducing its oil and gas dependence.

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