

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

BEFORE THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD

In the Matter of	}	
HOUSTON LIGHTING & POWER COMPANY		
(Allens Creek Nuclear Generating Station, Unit 1)		
		Docket No. 50-466

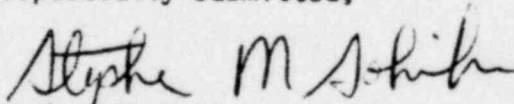
NRC STAFF'S RESPONSE TO
JOHN F. DOHERTY'S CONTENTION 47

The NRC Staff opposes the admission of John F. Doherty's Contention 47, submitted on March 12, 1980, as a matter in controversy in the captioned proceeding. Mr. Doherty contends that the Allens Creek turbine is not designed sufficiently to prevent turbine missiles from damaging critical components of the system. The contention should be rejected because it lacks the basis required by 10 CFR §2.714.

Mr. Doherty's alleged bases for the contention are contained in two "Board Notification" items (BN80-4 and 80-8) dealing with, respectively, general problems with Westinghouse turbines and a disc failure at the Yankee-Rowe facility (a Westinghouse plant) in which no fragments of the turbine disc penetrated the casing. These "Board Notifications" do not provide a basis for the contention for two reasons. First, they deal with Westinghouse facilities, and no nexus has been shown by Mr. Doherty between the problems experienced with Westinghouse turbines and the General Electric turbines which will be used at the Allens Creek facility.

More importantly, however, Mr. Doherty has no basis whatever for his bald assertion that turbine missiles could damage critical components at Allens Creek, even were they ejected from the turbine casing. He has obviously not reviewed Section 3.5.3 of Supplement 2 to the Staff's Safety Evaluation Report, which deals with turbine missiles. That section indicates that the Staff performed an analysis which assumed the ejection of the most energetic missile from the turbine casing at Allens Creek. The Staff then calculated the strike and damage probabilities for the radwaste building, which is the "only safety related structure within low trajectory turbine missile strike zone" Thus, the Staff has already analyzed the event about which Mr. Doherty is concerned (the ejection of missiles from the turbine casing), and concluded that "the likelihood of causing a significant release of airborne radioactive contamination is negligibly small."^{1/} That conclusion, as is explained in the SER, is based upon the particular orientation of the turbine vis a vis safety systems at Allens Creek, and the substantial barriers that would impede such a missile at the proposed facility. In light of the Staff's analysis and conclusion, which Mr. Doherty does not challenge in any way, there is no basis whatever for the admission of this contention as an issue in controversy. Accordingly, the Staff believes that it should be rejected by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,


Stephen M. Sohinki
Counsel for NRC Staff

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland,
this 1st day of April, 1980.

^{1/} Well below 10^{-7} per year.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of "NRC STAFF'S RESPONSE TO JOHN F. DOHERTY'S CONTENTION 47" 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 by deposit in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission internal mail system, this 1st day of April, 1980:

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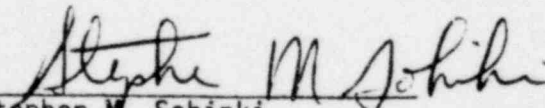
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