



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

PDR
50-546/547

JUN 16 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Commissioner Bradford
THRU: *f* William J. Dircks, Acting Executive Director
for Operations
FROM: Victor Stello, Jr., Director, Office of Inspection
and Enforcement
SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO QUESTION OF "HEAVY FAULTS" DISCUSSED AT THE
MARBLE HILL BRIEFING, MAY 7, 1980
(Signed) T. A. Rehm

As a result of your question regarding "heavy faults" arising from the September 1, 1979 request for hearing made by the Sassafras Audubon Society we have obtained the following additional information. The paragraph containing the terminology "heavy faults" appeared on page 5 as the third paragraph. This paragraph is quoted below.

"No mention is made in the Order of Mr. Jewel Rogers, Mr. Stanley Mortenson, and Mr. Michael Walston, also concrete workers at Marble Hill, who signed affidavits, July 10, 1979, charging serious flaws in the concrete work at Marble Hill, including 'heavy faults' in the base of the reactor containment building. The affidavits contain the names of personnel who allegedly ordered cover-ups of concrete flaws."

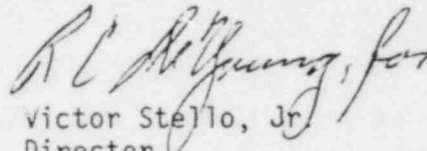
Through a telephone conversation we determined that the author of the quoted paragraph was Mrs. David G. Frey, associated with intervenor groups on Marble Hill. Mrs. Frey agreed to search her background files for the source document since a review of the three cited affidavits did not disclose the use of the term "heavy faults." Our belief was that the expansion joint which had been mentioned by Mr. Mortenson had been characterized as a "heavy fault" meaning a large crack or joint.

A letter was received from Mrs. Frey (Enclosure 1) which explains the source of the term "heavy faults." The source is a newspaper article which appeared in the Indianapolis Star on July 11, 1979. The article extensively quoted

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Mr. Dattilo, attorney for Save the Valley, and his allegations regarding Marble Hill. We have replied to Mrs. Frey (Enclosure 2) and consider this item to be closed since it is apparent that there is no question of a "fault" in the geologic sense or a significant crack in the base of the containment building. The use of the word "fault" was apparently a catch-all term meaning "many errors or deficiencies" but no specific allegations are made which would require detailed follow-up investigation. Our on-going assessments associated with the licensee's step-by-step program to demonstrate its capability to restart safety-related construction activities at Marble Hill, and the acceptability of completed work, will provide a definitive answer to questions as to the structural adequacy of that work.



Victor Stello, Jr.
Director
Office of Inspection
and Enforcement

Enclosures:

1. Ltr. from Mrs. Frey, 5/15/80
2. Ltr. to Mrs. Frey, 6/10/80