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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

BEFORE THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD

In the Matter Of

NORTHERN INDIANA PUBLIC
SERVICE COMPANY
(Bailly Generating Station, Nuclear 1)

(Construction Permit Extension)

STATEMENT OF ROBERT J. VOLLEN

- I, Robert J. Vollen, hereby state as follows:
- 1. In a telephone conversation on February 19, 1980, I was informed by William H. Eichhorn, one of the attorneys for NIPSCO in the above-captioned matter, that he had learned that Steven C. Goldberg, counsel for the NRC Staff in this matter, had expressed the Staff's position concerning the State of Illinois' Motion for Continuance to Herbert Grossman, Chairman of the Board, in an exparte conversation between Messrs. Goldberg and Grossman.
- 2. In a telephone conversation on February 20, 1980, I was informed by Susan Sekuler, one of the attorneys for the State of Illinois in this matter, that she have urned a telephone call placed to her by the Chairman of the Board and that in an exparte conversation, the Chairman informed her that he had ruled on and denied the State of Illinois' Motion for Continuance. Ms. Sekuler told me that the Chairman had said that among his reasons for the ruling was information

on the date sought by the Motion and the scheduling preferences of the Staff. Ms. Sekuler also cold me that because of the ex parte nature of the conversation, she felt constrained from making legal and factual arguments concerning what the Chairman had told her that she would otherwise have made.

3. At approximately 2:35 p.m., Central Standard Time. on Feburary 20, 1980, following my telephone conversation with Ms. Sekuler, I placed a telephone call to phone number 301-492-7948, the number she had given me as the Board Chairman's. When the phone was answered, I asked for the' office of Mr. Grossman, and Mr. Grossman responded that I was talking to him. I identified myself and told the Chairman that the purpose of my call was to request that he initiate a conference call through the NRC facilities among all of the parties to this proceeding. The Chairman asked me the purpose for a conference call. I responded that it was for the purpose of giving all the parties an opportunity to present their positions concerning the State of Illinois' Motion for Continuance, and answering several ex parte conversations which I understood the Chairman had participated The Chairman stated that he had already ruled on the Motion; I responded that I had been informed that he had, and that I thought a conference call should be held to discuss the ex parte conversations and to give all parties a chance to present their positions. I told the Chairman that we were treading unfair and dangerous ground for decisions to

be made based on ex parte conversations and that I thought it inappropriate to say anything more in this ex parte conversation. The Chairman said that he would have to check with the other Board members, and then said that in view of my position on ex parte communications it might be inappropriate for him to get back to me. I said that I hoped he would get back to me in the form of the NRC switchboard initiating a conference call. The Chairman said that it was not up to me to initiate a conference call. I repeated that I was requesting that he do so. The Chairman stated that if I wanted anything to be done, including the conference call, I should file a motion requesting that. I thanked the Chairman and the conversation ended.

I hereby affirm that the foregoing statements are true to the best of my recollection.

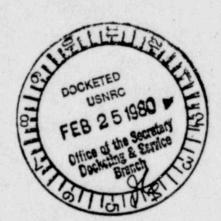
Dated: February 20, 1980

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have served copies of
the foregoing Joint Intervenors' Motion for (1) Reconsideration
of Denial of State of Illinois Motion for Continuance,
and (2) Continuance, dated February 20, 1980, upon each
of the persons named on the attached Service List, by
causing copies to be deposited in the U. S. Mail, in envelopes
properly addressed and sealed, first class postage prepaid,
this 20th day of February, 1980.

Attorney



SERVICE LIST

Herbert Grossman, Esq., Chairman Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, D. C. 20555

Dr. Richard F. Cole Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, D. C. 20555

Mr. Glenn O. Bright
Atomic Safety and Licensing
Board Panel
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Maurice Axelrad, Esq.
Kathleen H. Shea, Esq.
Lowenstein, Newman, Reis,
Axelrad and Toll
1025 Connecticut Ave., N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

William H. Eichhorn, Esq. Eichhorn, Eichhorn & Link 5243 Hohman Avenue Hammond, Indiana 46320

Diane B. Cohn, Esq. William P. Schultz, Esq. Suite 700 2000 P Street, N. W. Washington, D. C. 20555

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

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

George and Anna Grabowski 7413 W. 136th Lane Cedar Lake, Indiana 46303

Dr. George Schultz 110 California St. Michigan City, Indiana 46360

Richard L. Robbins, Esq. Lake Michigan Federation 53 W. Jackson Blvd. Chicago, IL 60604

Mr. Mike Olszanski Mr. Clifford Mezo United Steelworkers of America 3703 Euclid Ave. East Chicago, Indiana 46312

Steven C. Goldberg, Esq.
Office of the Executive
Legal Director
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dean Hansell, Esq.
Assistant Attorney General
John Van Vranken, Esq.
Environmental Control Division
188 W. Randolph St.
Suite 2315
Chicago, IL 60601

Stephen Laudig, Esq. 445 N. Pennsylvania Ave. Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Docketing and Service Station Office of the Secretary U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, D. C. 20555