

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

BEFORE THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD

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

NRC STAFF'S RESPONSE TO
F. H. POTTHOFF'S FIRST SET OF INTERROGATORIES

The NRC Staff responds as follows to the first set of interrogatories submitted to it by F. H. Potthoff III. The interrogatories were undated but received on August 11, 1980.

- 1. In the FES, Staff states that "production of methane on a large scale is not now a reasonable alternative." Has anything happened to change this evaluation?

Response

No.

- 2. In Staff's estimation, what exactly are the obstacles to production of methane from organic material?

Response

As stated in Section S.9.1.2.2 of the Final Supplement to the Final Environmental Statement, NUREG-0470. The immediate obstacle is to establish the commercial feasibility of the process. We also stated that fifteen-year research and development programs are foreseen to make the processes for both

direct combustion and conversion to methane of photo synthetically produced material and solid organic wastes economically and technically feasible on a commercial basis.

3. What is Staff's estimation of the size of a marine biomass farm to replace ACNGS? What environmental effects would it have?

Response

Since the Staff concluded that production of methane on a large scale is not now a reasonable alternative, it did not estimate the size of a marine biomass farm to replace ACNGS and did not identify the potential environmental effects.

4. Compared to a marine biomass farm, does the Staff believe the uranium fuel cycle has less environmental effects?

Response

The Staff has not evaluated the environmental effects of a marine biomass farm.

5. In the Staff's opinion, which would release more radionuclei, ACNGS or a marine biomass farm?

Response

The Staff has not analyzed the potential radiological consequences of a marine biomass farm.

6. In the Staff's opinion, does HL&P have the ability to build a marine biomass farm? If so, why? If not, why?

Response

The Staff has not analyzed HL&P's ability to build a marine biomass farm.

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Docket No. 50-466

AFFIDAVIT OF CALVIN W. MOON

I hereby depose and say under oath that the foregoing NRC Staff responses to interrogatories propounded by F. H. Pottnoff III were prepared by me or under my supervision. I certify that the answers given are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Calvin W. Moon
Calvin W. Moon

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this ~~26~~²⁷ day of August, 1980

Montgomery County, Md.

Rosanna M Kelly
Notary Public

My Commission expires: 7-1-82.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of "NRC STAFF'S RESPONSE TO F. H. POTTHOFF'S FIRST SET OF INTERROGATORIES" and "AFFIDAVIT OF CALVIN W. MOON" dated August 27, 1980, 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, through deposit in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's internal mail system, this 27th day of August, 1980:

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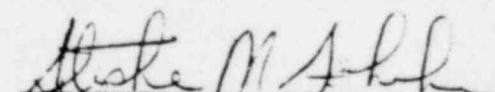
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