

CONSULTANTS
William L. Shannon, P.E.
Stanley D. Wilson, P.E.



SHANNON & WILSON, INC.
Geotechnical Consultants

1105 North 38th Street • Seattle, Washington 98103 • Telephone: (206) 632-8020 • Cable: GEOSAW
12 September 1980

Daniel R. Muller, Chairman
Siting Policy Task Force
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Sir:

We have reviewed the Report of the Siting Policy Task Force, and offer the following brief comments:

Recommendation 2 - There appears to be essentially no basis or rationale for some of the specific numbers selected. In particular, the rationale for selecting a minimum exclusion distance of 12.5 miles for all capable faults is not clear. Small faults which may be "capable" according to the existing criteria, may not necessarily constitute a potential hazard to a proposed site. Our preference would be for consideration of the "three-tier" approach of Alternative B.

Recommendation 7 - From the standpoint of geoscientists and geotechnical engineers, it is difficult to foresee finality of site approval occurring at other than at the LWA or construction permit stages. Earlier site approval can be no more than interim or tentative approval until the foundation conditions have been fully exposed and their adequacy assessed.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this report, and we would appreciate an opportunity to comment later on the two recommendations (nos. 4 and 9) that have been recessed.

Sincerely,

SHANNON & WILSON, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maurice D. Veatch".

Maurice D. Veatch
Divisional Vice President
Applied Geoscience Division

HHW/lca

cc: H.H. Waldron

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