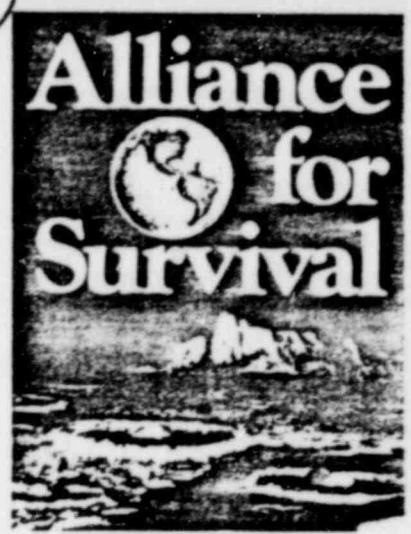


DOCKET NUMBER PR-2
PROPOSED RULE
46 FR 17216

4 April 1981

568

Mr. Joseph M. Hendrie, Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20555
(301) 492-7715



Dear Mr. Hendrie;

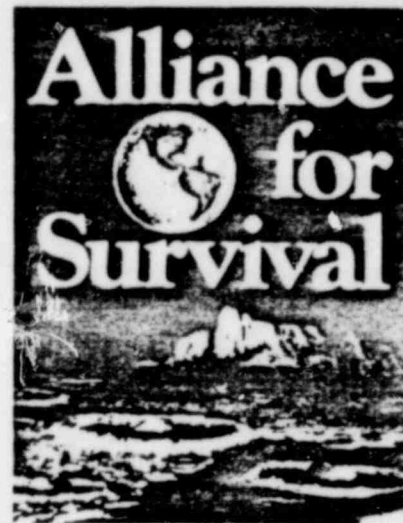
The membership of the Southern California Alliance for Survival wishes to take this opportunity to express our serious apprehension and dismay regarding your proposals to restrict citizen participation in commercial reactor licensing proceedings, and your concomittant request for legislation to bypass safety hearings through the issuance of interim, provisional, or low-power testing licenses.

The grave consequences that would result from a full scale nuclear reactor accident have been generally acknowledged. For example, the final Environmental Impact Statement prepared by the Commission in relation to the expansion of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station predicted that a worst-case accident would cause the prompt deaths of 130,000 persons, kill an additional 300,000 with delayed cancers, and cause as many as 600,000 genetic defects in future generations. In view of such appalling risks, it would be grossly irresponsible to allow a reactor to go into operation before the seismic stability of the site and the engineering soundness of the reactor's design and construction had been thoroughly investigated. The close proximity of major earthquake fault systems to the

(1)

h-4-1, Pl. 2
zero nuclear weapons
ban nuclear power
stop the arms race
meet human needs

reactors at San Onofre and Diablo Canyon emphasize the importance of conducting extensive seismic studies and hearings before licensing. The safety issues raised by the near catastrophe at Metropolitan Edison's Three Mile Island Unit II must also be addressed and resolved prior to the licensing of any new reactors.



Although the need for open, public hearings to examine these critical issues is obvious and pressing, the Commission has proposed the curtailment of public input through:

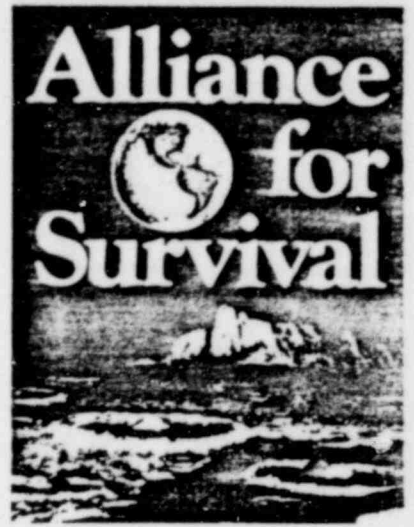
1. Eliminating discovery, whereby the commission must make its data and documentation available to the public, and
2. Preventing groups of interested citizens from calling N. R. C. personnel to the stand to testify on their behalf.

Such obstructionism and evasiveness is unworthy of the Commission, charged as it is with the awesome responsibility of insuring that the public is adequately protected from the hazards of radioactive contamination. Your apparent attitude that the public has no need to know or right to speak has absolutely no place in a democratically-governed society.

In summation, we remain convinced that the plethora of hazards associated with the routine operation of the nuclear fuel cycle and waste disposal, as well as the possibilities of catastrophic meltdowns and plutonium acquisition by terrorists (which could result in the destruction of a major city and environs by a Nagasaki -type fission bomb !) pose far too great a risk to allow the continued expansion of nuclear power. We remain committed to the goal of protecting present and future generations by putting the nuclear genie back into the bottle.

(2)

**zero nuclear weapons
ban nuclear power
stop the arms race
meet human needs**



Your thinly-disguised attempts to silence the questioning voices of the growing ranks of concerned citizens throughout this nation casts new doubt on your objectivity and credibility. We strongly urge you to support full and open safety and seismic hearings, with full disclosure of pertinent data, before any new reactors are licensed. The willingness to deal with the issues honestly, with openness and good faith, is one of the most important prerequisites for the sustenance of our democratic system.

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Alexander Andradi".

Alexander Andradi
Southern California
Alliance for Survival

(3)

**zero nuclear weapons
ban nuclear power
stop the arms race
meet human needs**