

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY CENTER

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11 May 1981

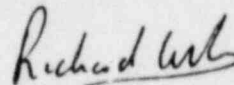
Dr. Joseph Hendrie
Commissioner, Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H St., N.W.
Washington, DC

Dear Dr. Hendrie,

I was appalled by a statement of Ms. Ruth Caplan before the Commission of February 4, 1981.

I wrote the attached letter to the secretary of the Sierra Club and in view of the fact that the Sierra Club misled the Commission in this matter, I request you give the letter the same circulation as you gave the record of the Feb. 4, 1981 meeting.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Wilson
Professor of Physics

RW:dr
Encl.


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Mr. McCloskey
Sierra Club
530 Bush Street
San Francisco, CA 94108

Dear Mr. McCloskey,

I am appalled by a statement made by Ms. Ruth Caplan on behalf of the Sierra Club at a presentation to NRC on February 4, 1981.

She said inter alia:

"Another problem is in getting expert witnesses...independent witnesses who have the technical expertise are very difficult to find...Often the few people who are willing to testify in the public interest are absolutely inundated with requests."

I remind you of my letter to you of 27 February 1974 when you asked me to debate nuclear power with Dr. Henry Kendall for the instruction of the Sierra Club--an invitation I accepted, but Henry Kendall declined. It is clear from my subsequent correspondence with you that I am still happy to do so. I am independent, I believe I have technical expertise, and I am happy to testify in the public interest and often do so. There are many others in a similar position that the Sierra Club can call upon if they choose. Of course, being independent, I refuse to be told what to say, but my record for speaking and actions on civil rights, the environment and public interest generally speaks for itself.

Of course since I have known technical expertise I am occasionally called by NRC as a consultant; but the transcript of the meetings at which I have spoken shows that I am far from a tame yes man.

In view of the mistaken impression Ms. Caplan's statement may give, I am sending a copy of this letter to Dr. Joseph Hendrie, Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Wilson

RW:dr
cc: Dr. J. Hendrie